

What is a volunteer Buddy and what will I be doing?

Buddies are a vital part of the success. Each player is assigned a buddy for **each** game. You are there to protect and assist the player as needed. You will help them to bat, field the ball, and run the bases, and encourage them along the way. For soccer, you will help with footwork and guide them through the play. Safety and good sportsmanship are key.

Once you participate you see that being a buddy allows you not only to make a difference in the life of someone with special needs but also to create a positive awareness of yourself. And its lots of fun!

Is experience in sports or working with special needs children necessary?

Helpful, but not necessary.

Who is eligible to be a Buddy?

Buddies are teens (12 and up) and adults who typically play or enjoy baseball or just like to help out in the spirit of giving. Buddies come to us from scouting, youth sports leagues, high school and college teams, and religious youth groups. Many buddies are parents or friends of the organization.

Do I have to attend each and every game? Consistent attendance is helpful, but not always a commitment everyone can make. Communicating with our Volunteer Director during the week prior to the game that you cannot come does enable us to plan for good coverage for our players.

"My new friend and I make a great team!"

Why have a Buddy program?

The Buddy Program has a great impact on all of the league participants. Parents have the chance to sit back and enjoy the game and each other. Coaches have the benefit of having one-on-one Buddy help and attention for each player. Buddies and players alike learn valuable assets like patience and understanding. Teens get an early start on building a lifelong habit of service.

What is required of a Buddy?

Buddies should be energetic, enthusiastic and committed for each game. Arrive early to enable the Buddy Program Directors to match you with your player. Learn how to be the best helper by speaking to the parents for specifics. Though we do not require your attendance every game, keep a consistent schedule if you can.

Is there special training involved?

A volunteer orientation will be held. This "sensitivity" training provides guidelines and suggestions on how to have fun and make the experience safe and enjoyable.

What should I do when I arrive on game day?

Report to the Buddy Director's table for sign-in. We ask that you wear your Beautiful People T-shirt each week. They are available for a suggested donation. Once matched with your player and introduced to their parent(s), proceed with some warm-up—play catch, or stretch, etc. Then report to your player's team coach for the line-up. Play Ball!

How do I become a Volunteer Buddy?

Buddy registration is held year-round. You can fill out the registration form attached or download it from the website under the volunteer section. We welcome you to refer friends that you think would be the right match as a buddy for Beautiful People sports programs.

"My buddy is so much fun!"

Can I receive credit for service hours?

Yes, students age 12 and up can receive credit, and if necessary, a written recommendation towards their service hour requirements for school or other group upon completion of our season. Please keep track of your own number of hours of volunteer time.