

YMCA of Metropolitan Chattanooga

Miracle League Buddy Responsibilities

Being a Buddy is a commitment to assist highly deserving individuals than may have never had an opportunity to participate in sports before. It is a commitment to a team, a player and the community that is reaching out to support the participant's special needs.

Being a Buddy is a rewarding experience and a responsibility. By assisting a player, a Buddy will have the opportunity to learn about a special player, help him / her achieve a sense of accomplishment and enjoy baseball.

Buddies must be at least 12 years of age to participate in this program. Siblings may serve as buddies with the company of an age-appropriate buddy.

Buddies duties will vary from full assistance for a player who may have severe mobility problems to offering guidance to players who can walk, run and perform many physical actions. Buddies may also assist players who do not have the mental or retentive ability to follow the rules of the game.

Buddies may volunteer to participate in an entire season or for one game. The more time committed toward a season the more impactful and rewarding the experience.

Buddies will randomly be assigned teams unless otherwise requested.

Focus on:

*Safety First

*Playing Baseball and Having Fun

*Encouragement and Support

Primary Goals of a Buddy:

1. To protect the Miracle League player at all times.
2. When a strong hitter is up to bat, Buddies are to step in front of their Miracle League Player for protection.
3. Always allow the Miracle League Player as much freedom as possible to play his/her own game.
4. Assist Miracle League Player according to their needs.
5. While in the outfield with your player, stay behind the baseline.
6. Be of good spirit with enthusiasm, love, good attitude and concern in motivating the players and their families.
7. Become their friend; get to know the players and their families.
8. Arrive at field 1 hour prior to game time.
9. Be properly dressed and clean in a Miracle League Buddies shirt.
10. Demonstrate high morals and integrity on and off the field.

Protect your Buddy, Yourself and Family members:

It is the role of a Buddy to assist the player on the field. It is not appropriate for a buddy to assist a player with personal needs off the field of play. Protect yourself, your player and the family by remaining in plain sight with your buddy at all times.