

The Braves Baseball Club will hold tryouts for the U13, U14, U16 and Varsity fall teams on August 1 at 9:30 am at Herndon High School. Players interested in participating in the tryout should send an email to BravesBaseballClub@gmail.com with your name, date of birth, and school/grade. League age is based on your age as of April 30, 2010. Current players are not required to attend a tryout, but should send an email confirming their desire to play. The tryouts will be conducted by members of the coaching staff for the collegiate Herndon Braves baseball team.

Players that are interested in playing next spring/summer but are not going to play baseball in the fall should send an email to and indicate their interest in trying out for the spring season. This will also be sure you are included in future communications. The Braves suggest attending the August 1 tryout even if you are not planning to play in the fall. It will help us gauge interest and develop plans for the year.

About the Program

The Braves Baseball Club offers player development in a competitive atmosphere. The club organizes teams at the U13, U14, U16 (JV), and Varsity levels. The coaching staff is comprised of coaches with experience playing or coaching collegiate-level baseball. It is the Braves philosophy that the youth teams are best prepared for high-school baseball when coached by non-parent, experienced coaches. Professional coaches provide an objective view of all players' abilities and development needs and will be responsible for all decisions involving position and playing time. The professional coaches are overseen by the directors for player development to ensure that both parents and players are receiving quality instruction. The depth of our coaching resources provides players the opportunity to work with a variety of coaches and to participate in high-school and college style practices. Practices stress core skill development (hitting, throwing, and base-running) as well as a better understanding of more sophisticated team defensive strategies and techniques used at the high-school level.

Through our association with the Herndon Braves Collegiate baseball team and coaching staff, the Braves Baseball Club teams have access to training facilities and the field at Herndon High-School. In addition we involve the collegiate players in our development program so that the younger players have the opportunity to learn first-hand about the effort these young men have put forth to be successful at the college level.

Team rosters are targeted at 12 players to maximize the amount of playing time and to provide the depth necessary to play at a competitive level. Players may be invited to play at the higher level to fill short-term and permanent needs. These decisions are made by the coaching staff based on the needs of the team.

Teams will participate in the NVTBL fall (September and October) season. Teams will play 20-24 games during the season, weather permitting. Practices begin in late August. Teams will have access to indoor training sessions at DST during inclement weather or when fields are unavailable. While some may want to play more frequently, our philosophy is that practices provide the best opportunity to teach and develop the skills necessary to play competitive teams. Games are the reward for practice and provide the opportunity to apply what has been worked on in practice. We also are cognizant of building arm strength and want to avoid injuries that tend to occur from overuse.

The Commitment

The commitment required is both personal and financial. Players will not reach their full potential unless they commit to working hard both during practices as well as between practices. Obviously we are committed to helping players to reach their potential and we expect players to be committed to the training program. Similarly a commitment to the success of the team is required. Players are expected to participate in practices and games.

The financial commitment is driven by both fixed and variable expenses. Fixed fees are incurred regardless of the number of games we play. These include league fees for administration and insurance, uniforms, and incidental equipment (mostly baseballs). Variable fees are driven by the number of games we play, practices we hold, and tournaments we participate in. These fees include: umpire fees, tournament fees, indoor facility usage, and coaching fees. Our program compensates coaches based on the number of games and practices in which they participate. If games or practices are cancelled, there are no charges. If the team decides to play an extra tournament, the coaches are compensated. While this involves a little more administration, it is the most equitable to both sides. For planning purposes, fees for the fall season ran about \$250 per month per player in-season.

The Coaching Staff

Our professional coaching staff is drawn from the Braves Collegiate coaching staff as well as area high-school coaches. The selection of coaches and players is based on input from the Co-Directors of Player Development to ensure that the coaching staff provides a consistent teaching approach across each age level. This approach prepares the player to easily transition to the next level of competition. This process is overseen by Greg Miller, Chris Smith and Jason Bagby.

Co-Director of Player Development – Greg Miller

Greg is the Head Varsity Baseball coach at Herndon High School. Greg graduated from Herndon High School in 1997 after leading the Hornets to District and Regional Championships in 1995 and 1996. He was a first team All-Met selection in 1997 and set the all time record for hits at Herndon. Greg went on to play for James Madison University where he was first team All-CAA (Colonial Athletic Conference) in 1999 and 2001. He graduated with the record for hits in a season with 100 as well as the all time hit leader at JMU, in the CAA, and the state of Virginia. Greg was drafted by the Atlanta Braves in the 20th round and spent three years in their organization, reaching AA Greenville. In 2002, he made the South Atlantic League All-Star team and was named MVP of the game. After retiring from baseball, Greg began coaching at Herndon High School and has also spent a couple of summers as the manager of the Herndon Braves Collegiate team winning back to back titles.

Co-Director of Player Development – Jason Bagby

Jason grew up playing baseball in Loudoun County. He was part of the first State Championship team in Lower Loudoun in 1987. He attended Broad Run High School and was a member of their first State Championship in 1991. He was a first team All-State selection that year. He went on to play middle

infield for James Madison University. After graduating, Jason ended up back at Broad Run as a varsity assistant coach. For four years, he was responsible for the offense and infielders. Since his time at Broad Run, Jason has been working with players in individual and small group settings as well as coaching travel teams ranging from ages 12 to 16. He has also spent a couple of summers coaching the Herndon Braves, a wooden bat summer league for college players. Jason heads baseball operations at Diamond Sports Training.

Co-Director of Player Development – Chris Smith

Chris is the General Manager of the Herndon Braves Collegiate team. His previous coaching experience includes coaching seven years at Herndon High School, one year with the collegiate-level Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts, three years at DeMatha Catholic High School, two years at St. Vincent Pallotti High School, and one year at Bowie St. University. Chris has been a part of two Herndon Braves collegiate championship teams (Clark Griffith League - '06 and '07) and a Herndon High School district championship team ('02). Chris heads the social studies department at Centreville H.S. and resides in Herndon with his wife and two young children.

About the Braves

With the mission of promoting access to baseball in our community, the Braves Baseball organization (<http://www.herndonbraves.com>) continues to work to bring high-quality baseball to the Herndon/Reston community. Through our collegiate summer team (June/July), our summer youth camps, and now our youth travel teams we are committed to our “Community Partnership” and vision for providing area youth with the opportunity to realize their full potential and develop a life-long love for the game.