Cooperstown Parent to Parent Information Packet

Dear WBA 12U Parents:

This summer, players will embark on what an unforgettable experience in their lifetime. This is a trip they've been dreaming of and working toward for several seasons. This journey is not just about the players. Family members will also have a wonderful time in the culmination of the Wilmette Baseball experience.

Many thanks to our coaches, parents and the entire WBA organization for their time and commitment to our players this season as they prepare them for their Cooperstown Dreams Park experience.

Lastly and most importantly - have fun!

**This packet was created by former WBA parents for parents, and is designed to provide guidance to ensure everyone's enjoyment and our teams' success, win or lose. Please read carefully, even if you've had a child attend in the past, as things change from year to year. Since we know things change, we can't guarantee everything in this guide is accurate, but hope it is useful and helpful and that it will be updated and modified year after year, with continued parent input.*

Cooperstown Dreams Park Tournament

http://cooperstowndreamspark.com/

- 102-team tournament, and generally the most competitive field
- Cooperstown Dreams Park is a 10–15-minute drive south of downtown Cooperstown, on the southern tip of Otesaga Lake in NY
- 4550 State Highway 28 Milford, NY 13807
- 704-630-0050

Cooperstown All-Star Village is a different tournament in Oneonta

Cooperstown Trip Basics

Focus on the experience of the players

- Win or lose, players should focus on having fun
- We will face similar competition, as well as year-round travel teams that have played 90+ games
- Wins largely depend on the teams drawn – do not worry if your team does not win a game
- Try not to over analyze games with your players
- After games, players will be focused on trading pins and playing wiffle ball
- A visit to the Hall of Fame with the team and families can be arranged once the schedule is known. Consult with coaches on day and time.
- Team/family dinners can be arranged by parents once the schedule is known. Consult with coaches on timing and curfew.
- **Packing list, Sign-up Genius & Splitwise**

Tournament

- **Cooperstowndreamspark.com/tournament-itinerary/**
- **Download the Cooperstown Dreams Park app**
- Teams will be placed in groups of 6 and will play 5 round-robin games.
- Playoffs - single elimination tournament starts on Day 5
- Be prepared to start a game at any time of the day or night. With a rain delay, games might be played well past midnight.

Coaches

- Give them space – it is a ton of work (coaching, laundry, meals, game lineups, sleeping in barracks, etc.)
- Rules are different with “extra-hitters” and “subs.” Playing time will be relatively even over the week. Players will sit for multiple innings in some games and there will be a DH in each game, that player will not be in the field.
- Coaches will play players at positions (ex. Pitcher or Infield) at some point during the tournament that they might not normally play during the travel season
- The intention is for team coaches to attend. However, if they are not available, parents might be asked to coach and stay overnight in the barracks.

Key Dates

- WBA Parent Meeting #1 (see tips for more info) Oct 29
- Please decide on the following:
    - one parent volunteer to be the lead communicator
    - one parent volunteer to assemble the binder and register online
    - one parent volunteer to coordinate commemorative bats
    - one parent volunteer coordinate team/family get togethers
    - one parent volunteer to coordinate pins and towels and bring WBA banner
    - one parent volunteer to manage money
    - one parent to coordinate Opening Ceremony needs
    - group of parent volunteers to hold seats for opening ceremonies

**Some parents can do more than one of the above if it works better for the team*

- Parents Start to Make Accommodation Arrangements Nov
- WBA Order/Pay for Pins and Towels Nov
- WBA Order/Pay for Umpires Nov
- WBA Parent Meeting #2 March/April
- WBA Order Team Banners March/April
- Parents Purchase Baseball Pants May
- Touch Base with coaches regarding shared item needs End May/Beg June
- Binder Complete - birth certificates, health forms, etc. June 1
- Distribute Pins/Towels Week of 6/20
- **Cooperstown Tournament Week June 26 - July 2**

Costs

Fee covers

- CDP fees for both players and coaches (WBA pays the camps for our coaches)
- Umpire fees for the week (each team required to pay for one per team)
- Trading pins
- Personalized trading pin towel
- 2 Belts
- 2 Jerseys/1 Hat/2 Socks and other gear from CDP
- Team banner
- Coaches’ travel costs & salary for the week
- Transportation and hotel accommodations for parents/family are not included

Ideally, provide your coaches with an additional money for necessities as well as a team gift. Last year, we provided ours with cash and a hotel for the night.

Fundraiser

Parents should inform their player that many other teams are only able to attend this experience after year long fundraising.

We encourage parents to organize something to help players “earn” a price reduction. Parents can plan team charity activities such as Feed My Starving Children, Bernie's Books, A Just Harvest, etc. This is great for team building, and helping others less fortunate is always a good thing, as our players are fortunate to be able to go on this trip regardless of fundraising.

The Binder

Information to collect (by parent coordinator) - coaches turn in at check in

- **Original** (not copies) of birth certificates for players (to be returned to parents)
- The remaining information is individually submitted during registration
    - Player DOB, height, weight, ring size, arrival times, parent cell/email, address
    - Parental Authorization & Consent forms
    - Player Waiver & Release of Liability forms - coach and players
    - Player medical forms (a physical must be completed, including required immunization shots, and signed by a physician within 1 year of participation)
- Coaches' resumes
- Coaches' medical forms (no recent physical required, but shot dates requested)
- Umpire registration forms
- Umpire contact information
- Entries for home run, fastest runner, throwing and team relay contests
- Player combination lock (2) numbers (no key locks)
- Parent coordinator should give paperwork to a coach just prior to the trip

Health & Safety

The tournament is run as a camp with strict rules

- CDP is a drive in facility only. You cannot walk in and out of the main gate.
- Except at check-in, only players and coaches can enter the areas where players stay overnight and dine
- Players should be with their team or a coach at all times, no wandering around the facility in small groups
- The boys love staying on campus. Great team building opportunity. It is recommended that they only be checked out for team dinner/party or trip to the HOF.
- Players can only be checked out with a signed release form by the coach
- There is 24 hour security on the property

Medications

- All campers under the age of 18 must be immunized
- CDP highly recommends all coaches and umpires have a measles vaccination or an MMR booster
- All medications (prescription and OTC), along with dosage and timing, must be delivered to the medical tents upon arrival
- Medication bag must be labeled with player's name
- Camp medical staff will ensure medications are administered as instructed, however players need to go get their meds. Let the coaches know who needs medication and when so they can remind the players to go get their meds.
- There is 24 hour medical staff on the property

Special Instructions

- Make coaches aware of any nutrition information or food allergies

Cooperstown Dream Park Itinerary

Cooperstowndreamspark.com/tournament-itinerary/

Day 1

- Coaches should arrive earlier in the day to check in team with binder - coordinate with parent volunteers.
- Players arrive between 2 pm – 8 pm to check in and drop off bags. It is a process, so be patient.
- Players eat in the barracks
- Head Coach & Umpire Rules Meeting

Day 2

- Opening Ceremony/Skills Competitions
- Afternoon/Evening Games – each team should expect to play once

Day 3 and 4

- 2 games per day, ranging from 9 am to pm
- Tournament Seedings are posted later in the evening7:00 p.m. game on Tuesday.

Day 5 and 6

- Single elimination tournament
- The goal is for the Top 16 teams to advance to Day 6. Plans can be adjusted based on weather.
- Players are required to check-out of the barracks immediately after elimination

Daily Itinerary

ALL PLAYER MEALS ARE IN THE DINING PAVILION

- 6:30 A.M. - 9:30 A.M. BREAKFAST
- 11:00 A.M. - 2:30 P.M. LUNCH
- 5:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. DINNER

- Nightly Activities
  - Pin Trading
  - Wallbanger Arcade (players must be supervised)
  - Concession open until Lights Out
- 10:30 P.M. LIGHTS OUT

Example Schedule

(schedule can be found on Cooperstown website approx a week in advance)

Schedule Games for Wilmette Travelers Green for Week of June 30, 2018

Day / Time	Field	Home/Visitor	Opponent
Sunday 1:45 P.M.	20	Home	Chandler World (FL)
Sunday 7:00 P.M.	22	Visitor	South Forsyth Giants (GA)
Monday 11:00 A.M.	18	Visitor	Toluca Thunder (CA)
Monday 4:30 P.M.	17	Home	Texas Cannons (TX)
Tuesday 11:00 A.M.	2*	Home	Montclair Bulldogs (NJ)
Tuesday 4:30 P.M.	4*	Visitor	Canton Cardinals (MI)

* These games streamed live on DreamsParkTV.com

Single Elimination Tournament schedule available approx. 30 minutes after final Tuesday games. (subject to change)

*All meals will be served at scheduled times. Plan your day around the scheduled meal times. Team representatives may request and complete a Late Team Meal Request Form at the Baseball Operations Center in the Family Pavilion. Meals are saved only for teams in a game that finishes past a scheduled meal time due to a weather delay situation and must be approved by Baseball Operations. All team members must eat at the same table and clean up their dining area when finished.

Barracks

- Each team has a barrack with bunk beds. They recently have AC units which help.
- Each player has a bunk and a footlocker that can be locked and fits a large duffle. Some kids bring hooks to put on bunk to hold towels/hats (highly recommended!). Large Ziploc Packing bags are an easy way to get organized.
- The players are supposed to keep the barracks clean and cleaning supplies should be provided by CDP
- The bathroom and showers are separate from the barracks. Adults do not shower in the players showers.
- The players wear swimsuits to shower. Have a discussion about personal care. Chaffing is real, especially when hot. Gold Bond should be used generously and daily, prior to any issues.
- There is no wifi but players can have their cellphones in the barracks

Lodging Recommendations from Parents

Lodging books up quickly in Cooperstown so make arrangements as soon as you secure your spot on the team and confirm your team is going to CDP. Families enjoy staying at the same resort/hotel, renting houses together, or staying on the same lake.

- Cooperstown Family Rentals, Cooperstownstay.com and Cooperstown Accommodations are great resources to book hotels and houses (not all allow team parties). Goodyear Lake has a number of homes for rent. Others include:
- Otesaga Resort Hotel - beautiful and on the lake. More like a high-end resort
- August Lodge - condos and a pool
- Holiday Inn Express
- Lake ‘N Pines
- Fieldstone Farm Resort
- Airbnb

*Accommodations with washer/dryers are a bonus to wash the boys smelly clothes before heading home. Also due to warm weather, pool access is also appreciated.

Otesaga Hotel (large hotel) Holiday Inn Express (smaller, convenient location)

Holiday Inn Express (smaller, convenient location)

Example of Family House Rental August Lodge

August Lodge

Restaurant Recommendations from Parents

Most restaurants offer team dining options. When dining as a family, you should be able to get in without a reservation. If having a team dinner or group dinner, reservations can be made once you have your schedule or the day before. Because they serve CDP, they are very accustomed to last minute calls. The service in general in Cooperstown is not great.

- The Dining Room at Otesaga Hotel – patios overlooking lake, higher priced
- Hawkeye Grill at the Otesaga
- Mel's at 22 - good for adult dinner
- Brewery Ommegang – great outdoor and indoor seating. Boys can play wiffle ball and run around. Its' further away from CDP.
- Bocca Osteria – great Italian, convenient, but no reservations taken
- Sal's Pizzeria – great patio out back for team dinner - they were very accomodating for 2 teams and across from Hall of Fame.
- Hardball Café - good for team dinner
- Upstate Bar and Grill - good for team dinner
- Pioneer Patio - good for team dinner
- Redneck BBQ – convenient, the food was just OK
- Mascots - good for a team dinner, across from ballpark
- Back Alley Grille - good for a team dinner
- New York Pizzeria
- Cooperstown Diner
- Doubleday Diner
- Fly Creek Cider Mill
- Council Rock Pub
- Barnyard Swing - Good for team picnic. Bring your own food and use their BBQ, order pizza there or bring food from somewhere else.
- Cooperstown Fun Park - good for team dinner/Order in Italian

Hall of Fame Visit/Team Dinners

- A trip to the Hall of Fame with players and families can be planned once the schedule is known. Consult with coaches on day/time.
- There are a number of options – availability will depend on game schedules

Packing List - See Checklist - Label Everything!

Two (2) pairs of plain knee length white baseball pants

- NO STRIPES
- They must also be tapered at the bottom of the knees so that the baseball socks are fully visible

    - Suggest ordering the Cooperstown Package as a team or on your own. Dick's Sporting Goods is an option.
    - **Order a size that is roomy** as it tends to get hot at the ballparks and may be uncomfortable for the boys if the pants are too tight and lead to chaffing

Baseball Gear

- Bats – CDP allows all non-wood bats
- Mitt, cleats (no metal), batting helmet, sliding shorts, cups, batting gloves, sunglasses, equipment bag (coaches)
- 2 Belts supplied by WBA – colors must meet park color requirements (navy & red)
- 2 jerseys/2 hats/2 socks/1 warm-up jacket/1 long sleeve shirt are provided by the tournament upon arrival based on collected player information (consider sending an extra pair of red and navy socks)

***Uniforms, socks and sliding shorts are washed daily by the CDP facility**

Other Items to Pack

- Flip flops & swim suit (for showers), toiletries, towels, pillow, sleeping bag, ear plugs, normal summer clothes, sweatshirt, bug spray, sunscreen, rain gear/umbrella, mesh laundry bag, ziplock bags,garbage bag, Ziploc Totes for packing and unpacking (just put in locker at end of bed)
- Combination lock (not a key lock), box fans, personal clip on fan, Water mister spray bottle, bed hook, power strip
- Trading pins and personalized pin towel (ordered by WBA)
- Cash for game room (roll of quarters), concession stand and vending machines
- Sharpie pens to label everything
- Activities for time off: wiffle ball gear, playing cards, magazines, books
- Avoid bringing valuables and electronics (cell phones are ok and don't forget headphones and charger)

Shared Team Items to Pack

- 1 Combination lock for team equipment box (coaches)
- Someone should coordinate with the coaches their lists of needs to share for the barracks and daily ball games, i.e. coolers, cases of small water/gatorade (2 per family) chairs for the coaches, wagons for use in the park, team bug spray, sun block, gold bond, air freshener, snacks, Damp Rid, some OTC meds...We suggest using Sign Up Genius. An example is here. This should be organized well before the trip.

Player Packing List

Mark everything with name. Avoid bringing valuables.

Clothes

- 4-5 T-shirts
- 1-2 Long sleeve shirts
- 4-5 Shorts
- 4-5 Socks
- 7 Underwear
- 1 Sweatshirt
- 1 Sweat pants
- 1 Raincoat
- 1 Coat
- 2 PJs
- 1-2 Swim suit (for shower)
- 1 Slides
- 1 Shower Flip Flop
- 1 Gym shoes
- 1 Hat

Baseball

- 2 Pair white knee length baseball pants (no line)
- 1 pair each extra red & navy baseball socks
- 2 Sliding shorts & 2 cups
- Batting gloves
- Baseball bag
- Sunglasses
- Baseball glove(s)
- Catchers gear
- Bat(s)
- Cooling towel
- Batting helmet
- Water bottle (optional)
- Cleats
- Wilmette practice shirt

Personal

- Pillow and case
- Blanket or sleeping bag
- Sheet set (optional)
- String backpack to carry pins
- Power/extension cord
- Portable fan
- Cell phone/Charger
- Laundry bag
- Locks and combo (2)
- Sharpie pen
- Headphones
- Bed hooks for towels/hats
- Febreze (optional)
- Flashlight or headlight
- Books/magazines
- Playing cards
- Umbrella
- $$$ (for arcade/vending)

Toiletries

- Toothbrush & Paste
- Shower caddy
- Soap/shampoo
- Gold Bond powder
- Sunscreen & bug Spray
- Deodorant
- Desitin
- Kleenex
- Medicine (to medic)
- Hand sanitizer
- Chapstick
- Other toiletries

Team Packing List

Cooperstown (lead parent coordinate with coach)

Team

- Team banner made by WBA
- 1 Lock for equipment
- 1-2 Wagons for transport
- Basic medicine (advil, tylenol, benadryl)
- Sharpie Pen
- 2 Large umbrellas
- Air freshener
- 2 Coolers
- 4 Box fans
- 5 Extension cords
- Speakers for music
- $20-$25 per kid to coaches for arcade/vending
- List of combination lock numbers
- List of nutrition and food allergies

Provided by Cooperstown/WBA

- 1 Red and 1 blue jersey
- 1 Baseball hat
- 1 Red and 1 blue pair of baseball socks
- 1 Red and 1 blue belt
- Warm up set (short & long sleeve shirt)
- 1 Windbreaker
- 1 Personalized trading towel
- 60+ Pins

Tips From Parents

Organizing

- This is a parent coordinated trip. Everyone should be expected to help out in some way. It is highly recommended that at the **October meeting . . .**
    - one parent volunteer to be the lead communicator - this includes meeting dates, key prep dates, disseminating parent information and coordinating shared items (per the coaches requests or your own needs)
    - one parent volunteer to assemble the binder (collect all paperwork) and register online (you need login information from WBA)
    - one parent volunteer to coordinate and order Cooperstown commemorative bats for kids and coaches at Cooperstown
    - one parent volunteer to coordinate team/parent get togethers before and after Cooperstown (one get together in Cooperstown with the other team, typically the trip to HoF and dinner after)
    - one parent volunteer to coordinate pins and towels, and distribute to team (week before trip to Cooperstown)
    - one parent volunteer to manage $ for the coaches and their gift
    - group of parents to hold seats for opening ceremonies - bring some extra items to hold space.
    - one parent volunteer to coordinate Opening Ceremony needs (Fat Heads, shirts etc)

**Some parents can do more than one of the above if it works better for the team*

Follow-up Meetings

- Attend all scheduled WBA meetings and have a meeting with coaches right away for an overview and find out what they need from parents, i.e. fans, coolers, the plan to get daily water/gatorade, etc. & again as the trip gets closer
- Organize a parent get together with parents from previous year for overview and tips early in the process
- Communications and Binder person should touch base with coaches to see what they need for the trip

- **Follow Cooperstown on facebook and join the Cooperstown Dreams Park Experience facebook page** (created by parents) and explore other sites:
    - Youth Baseball: Cooperstown Dreams Park Tips and Tricks (Part 10 Series Recap)
    - https://travelballparents.com/category/cooperstown-dreams-park/
    - Cooperstown Packing List for Dream Parks
    - The Cooperstown Dream Blog
- There are many stores in Cooperstown - hardware, grocery and drug stores. There are also WalMart's on the way from Syracuse and Albany.

Tips From Parents (continued)

- Use some sort of **group chat** - include the coaches. Like Groupme or WhatsApp. This was very helpful while in Cooperstown to communicate with each other - everything from changes to schedule, additional needs, where to meet, etc.
- Coaches have a **daily cooler** to fill to bring to games for players. Discuss with coaches how they want to keep it full and with what - they may want you to bring drinks daily, which parents take turns doing, or provide at drop off. Coaches take care of ice. Small bottles are recommended. Many kids don't finish their drinks.
- For **Opening Ceremonies**, parents may want to wear matching shirts or baseball hats and hold big head pictures of the boys. You can also bring these to the games. You may want to have one person coordinate making "Fat Heads" or other items for the ceremony parade.
- **Commemorative bats and baseballs** can be engraved at the park (cheaper options are available in downtown Cooperstown). We recommend ordering bats early in the week so they are ready before departure to avoid shipping costs. Some places offer group discounts. On the bats, you can put the child's name, the coaches and players name, the jersey # (decide if you want cooperstown or Wilmette travel jersey #) and whatever else you like.

- Most parents check their kids out of the barracks for good after the last game and either leave or spend the night in Cooperstown. **Coaches can leave after everyone checks out for the final time**, but if they stay in Cooperstown, families who leave can offer their rooms or families can pitch in to get them a hotel room. *If two WBA teams go at the same time, make sure you speak to the other team about it.* Kind of a bummer if one team does it and the other does not.

Logistics

- It is best to **check your player in Friday** during early check in. This needs to be signed up for during registration.
- **Parking is plentiful**, but with many games starting at the same time, make time to park and get to the field. Know what field your game is on and park in the closest lot. At CDP there is one section of fields that is a 15-20 minute walk. Golf carts are available for transport if needed.

Tips From Parents (continued)

- **Games may start 10-15 minutes early**, especially if there are rain delays, so get there early for a good spot and so as not to miss part of the game
- **CDP Daily check out process** - Pull car into waiting zone in Lot C to pick up players at the West Gate. Coaches will bring players to the gate entrance and each player needs a check out slip with their info on it, signed by the coach, that you turn in to the attendant when you leave the main gate. When dropping back off, pick up the slip from the main gate and drop the player at the West Gate entrance with the slip. We suggest signing a bunch before so you do not bother the coaches. There are multiple places to sign kids in and out.
- **Closing Ceremony** – Thursday 5:30 pm – many families choose not to participate and have left by then.
- The **championship game** starts after 9pm **fireworks** and is great baseball

Travel/Family Fun

- If you are **driving to Cooperstown** some families choose to stop on the way there or home. Ideas include Cleveland, Erie, Presque Isle State Park, Annapolis, Niagara Falls, Lake Placid, Toronto, Montreal, Buffalo (home of the Buffalo wing)
- If you're planning on going to the **Canadian side of Niagara Falls, you'll need an updated passport for each family member.** If you chose to attend without your spouse, you may want to bring a signed letter for each child with you.
- If you fly, Syracuse (1 hour 45 min to CDP) seems to have the cheapest flights. You can also fly into Albany (1.5 hours to CDP).
- If possible get to Cooperstown Thursday or early on Friday to get the lay of the land, drive by CDP or ASV, explore downtown Cooperstown
- **Families have downtime in between games.** Golf, kayak/canoe/swim, rent bikes, hike in a local state parks, visit the Farmers Market on Saturday, Cooperstown Beverage Tour, train ride, horseback riding, Farm Museum, Feniwick Art Museum, Cooperstown Fun Park, rent a boat, hang out by the pool or lake at your hotel, shop in downtown Cooperstown, go to Abner Doubleday Field, etc. However, it is hard to plan anything before you get your schedule, which is about a week before you go. Local restaurants and vendors are used to the "last-minute-nature" as they are there to serve CDP.
- **A great idea is to rent pontoon boats** Wednesday afternoon, game schedule dependant, for a family/team/coach outing. Sam Smith's is a great place to rent (also a

Tips From Parents (continued)

great restaurant there too), about 10 minutes from downtown Cooperstown on Otsego Lake.

Packing

- **CDP pants/jersey** sizes are very big. Have someone from the previous year bring jersey and other items to a meeting and perhaps WBA can submit different sizes than the WBA jersey info.
- The **weather is unpredictable** in upstate NY. Prepare for hot, cold and rain. It can get hot in the day and cool at night
- **You don't need to bring chairs or stadium seats**, but you can. They provide plenty of seating (green plastic chairs) in the fan dug out which is partially covered. However, we recommend you bring an umbrella (or purchase one there) as it can get really hot during the games and during the opening ceremony.

- **It can get very hot** in CDP. Bring hats/visors, sunscreen, comfortable shoes, portable misting fans, umbrellas for sun and rain. Bring your own water bottles.
- Everything is very **casual.** For kids and parents.
- **Clothes** come home very smelly. Pack extra clothes with you for your player for before they check in and after they check out of the Barracks. The packing checklist attached is for while they are in the Barracks.
- **Label** all your child's clothing BEFORE you go to Cooperstown, but bring an extra sharpie with you - their uniform will be labeled by coaches.

At Cooperstown

- **Free daily bus service** for parents, families and teams is provided at the designated area in Parking Lot B (bus schedule will be posted)
- There are **concession stands** for guests near every field and the food is pretty good, open from 8:00 a.m. until the end of the last game. Sometimes the players will need to eat there dependent on game time, or just want a snack.
- There is a **large gift shop** to purchase mementos at CDP. Purchase the tournament t-shirt with all the team names on it on Friday at check in. They sell out quickly, especially small sizes. Purchase other items early in week too; by the end of the week the pickings are slim.

Tips From Parents (continued)

- **Pin trading -** Many players love pin trading and it starts in line waiting to check in so we recommend pins and towels be distributed at home. Trading continues throughout the week and at the final game. Some players bring other kinds of pins from home to trade. Keep in mind some players enjoy this and some don't. Encourage players to talk with past players about pin trading. **Siblings** can participate as well and go from field to field trading throughout the week.

- Consider taking a **team picture** early in the week in front of the stone entrance sign with the boys in their Cooperstown game jerseys or Wilmette practice jerseys. As the week goes on schedules make it difficult to take this picture.

- **Opening Ceremony**
    - They are long. The ceremony has speeches, songs, etc. Teams parade and enter the stadium with their banner in alphabetical order. Unless they change this, they enter on the 3rd base line and walk counterclockwise around the stadium, stopping in left field, and the teams fill in from there. Because it is alphabetical order we are at the end and do not get to parade around the stadium so our teams stand near home plate facing into the field. The best place to see our teams is down the third base line, left field or near home plate (where you may be a little behind them).
    - Teams bring things to throw in the parade like candy, bracelets, squishy baseballs, etc, but our players don't get to parade since we are at the end, so it's not necessary to bring things to throw. Siblings have fun collecting thrown items from other teams. Bring a bag for their swag.
    - Have a parent outside the stadium take a picture of the team with their sign as they walk into the stadium
    - The skill competitions begins after the ceremony. 'Round' the horn is on field #1 and is in alphabetical order. If your son is in an individual competition it is on another field and will be announced. This portion ends anywhere from 7:30-9pm. Most families stay to watch.

Tips From Parents (continued)

- The concession lines are long. The players eat before and will likely eat after. Some parents go out for dinner after.

- At CDP, **siblings** can collect foul balls and turn them in for tokens. 5 tokens gets them a special pin. The kids really enjoy this.
- **Professional pictures** are taken of each player and of the team on Saturday, and at fields throughout the tournament. Each player gets 4 baseball cards with their picture at the end of the week. Other picture items can be purchased at the photo center. Go to www.DreamsParkPhotos.com for CDP to see all of the park's daily pictures, find and favorite the ones you like, and they will then be available to you at the photo center or online for easy item ordering. Examples are game program covers with your son's pictures, and collages. During the season, only the current week will be viewable. Come October the site is converted and all weeks may be viewable. Online ordering is available during the off season, October 15th through May 1st.
- **Dreams Park TV broadcasts** CDP daily games, highlights, live webcams and select on-demand games. When the schedule is released you will know which games will be streamed live. Your player may not have the same jersey number as at home, so tell those watching the jersey color for the game, they will wear a different color for home vs away, and number.