



Shakopee Youth Baseball Association

2026 Travel Parent Meeting

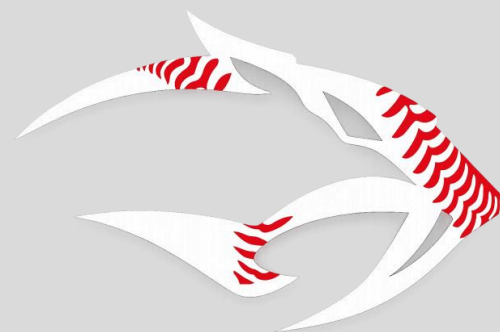


AGENDA:

- ◇ Introduction to Board
- ◇ Mission Statement, Core Values and Conduct
- ◇ SYBA Leagues
- ◇ Important Dates/ Schedules
- ◇ Tryouts
- ◇ Uniforms & Equipment
- ◇ Fees/Fundraising
- ◇ Coaches
- ◇ Field Maintenance
- ◇ Umpiring
- ◇ Volunteering
- ◇ Corporate Sponsorships

- ◆ **PRESIDENT:** Shane Hofmann
- ◆ **VICE PRESIDENT:** Kyle Rice
- ◆ **TREASURER:** Rob Deuth
- ◆ **SECRETARY:** Sean Dolan
- ◆ **TRAVEL DIRECTORS** Jason Lenz & Blake Grefe
- ◆ **IN-HOUSE DIRECTORS:** Jason Mousel & Trevor Jones
- ◆ **FIELD & FACILITIES DIRECTOR:** Christina Tibbetts
- ◆ **COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR:** Mark Amundson
- ◆ **SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTORS:** Sara Lewis & Tracey Domke
- ◆ **TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR:** Katie Johnson
- ◆ **ASSISTANT TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR:** Tatum Heil
- ◆ **EQUIPMENT DIRECTOR:** Tyler Menden
- ◆ **UMPIRE COORDINATOR:** Brent Vannier
- ◆ **COMMUNITY LEAGUE COORDINATOR:** Ryan Schmitz
- ◆ **ASSISTANT EQUIPMENT DIRECTOR:** Sean LaCoste
- ◆ **FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR:** Billy Wermerskirchen

2026 SYBA BOARD



The mission of the Shakopee Youth Baseball Association is to serve young athletes of all skill levels and experience, from **beginner** and **recreational** players, to the highest **competitive** levels. We are committed to the development of strong baseball skills and competitive excellence within a **safe, fun, and inclusive** community, allowing players to succeed both on and off the diamond.

MISSION STATEMENT

SYBA CORE VALUES

TEAM:

Work together toward a common goal, put our teammates first, trust and support each other.

RESPECT:

Value your teammates, coaches, umpires, opponents, the game, and the fields we play on. We listen, show sportsmanship, appreciate everyone's role, and leave the field better than we arrived.

HUSTLE:

Bring max effort and energy every play. We sprint out onto the field, run hard to first base, get dirty to make plays, take the extra base and fight for every run.

HEART:

Play with passion, courage, and determination. We keep going when the game gets tough, lift each other up, and never give up.

FUN:

Enjoy playing the game and your teammates. Baseball is competitive, but we will create memories, celebrate wins, and learn from losses together.

There is a code of conduct that all of you will automatically “sign” when you register. Please familiarize yourself with the code prior to continuing with the registration.

We expect everyone associated with the SYBA program to be a good role model for our kids and represent our community in a positive manner.

If we hear otherwise, expect to be contacted by your coach, coordinator or a SYBA board member.

Please remember, YOU represent all of us with your behavior at all contests!

COACH- PARENT- PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

Coach-Parent-Player Code of Conduct

Reminders:

- ◇ These are **kids** NOT professional athletes
- ◇ Coaches are **VOLUNTEERS**
- ◇ Bad calls WILL happen; Exercise **Self-Control** and **Respect** the Umpires
- ◇ **Be a role model**: don't make negative comments about the coaches, the umpires, other players or the other team
- ◇ Observe a **24-hour** cool down rule
- ◇ It's a game, **be positive** and **encouraging**!



SYBA Leagues:

- ◆ T-Ball coming soon
- ◆ In-House
- ◆ Travel
- ◆ Community League
- ◆ Junior Legion
- ◆ Senior Legion



TRAVEL LEAGUE

AGES 9-14

- ◆ Tryouts for team placement
- ◆ We do not turn away ball players. If a player does not make a travel team, they are invited to join the community league
- ◆ Player's age levels based on their age as of May 1st, 2026 or their grade during the 2025-2026 school year
- ◆ Teams of 10-12 Players
- ◆ Travel levels are AAA, AA, A
- ◆ Levels for each age group are depending on the number of registrations, tryout results, and previous year's results

Travel League Ages 9U-14U:

| Age Group | Teams for 2026 | Age as of May 1, 2026 | Grade 2025-2026 school year |
|-----------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 9U | AAA, A | 9 yrs old | 3rd grade |
| 10U | AAA, A | 10 yrs old | 4th grade |
| 11U | AAA, A | 11 yrs old | 5th grade |
| 12U | AA, A | 12 yrs old | 6th grade |
| 13U | AA, A | 13 yrs old | 7th grade |
| 14U | AA | 14 yrs old | 8th grade |

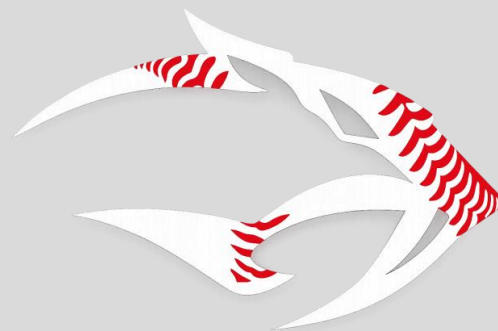
- ❖ Players who are young for their grade may play up an age level to play with their grade. Players may NOT play down an age level.
- ❖ 9U Travel Team: 8-yr old's may try-out for 9U travel but may NOT take a roster spot of a 9-yr old (unless it is determined by tryout evaluations that it is unsafe for the 9-yr old to play on the 9U travel).

- ◆ **Practice:** 2-3 x per week (reduced during game weeks)
- ◆ **League Games:** 14 weeknight games mid April - June (1/2 @ Home Field)
- ◆ **Playoff Games:** July (single elimination)
- ◆ **Tournaments:** 4 weekend tournaments
- ◆ **State Tournaments:** Qualify by placing at weekend tournament(s). **If you qualify, you are required to attend at least 1.** Teams could qualify for up to 2.

Note: Head coaches schedule league games, tournaments are already scheduled by Travel Directors

****STAY OFF THE
FIELDS UNTIL
OFFICIALLY
OPENED BY THE
CITY****

TRAVEL LEAGUE AGES 9U-14U



Travel Team Playing Time

- ◆ Playing time expectations are available on the www.shakopeeyouthbaseball.com website.
- ◆ Please understand that traveling baseball is competitive and that equal playing time (batting order and positions) are not guaranteed.
- ◆ Younger levels will have more rotations and opportunities in games than older levels. League games often provide more opportunities for rotations than tournaments.

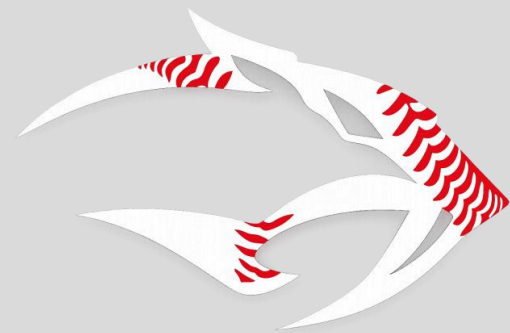
- ◆ Registration through Crossbar
- ◆ There will be 1 Senior Legion team and 2 Junior Legion teams
- ◆ Teams are determined based on spring baseball performance and determined by Shakopee's high school's coaching staff
- ◆ Look for emails from Coach Schmitz for additional details
- ◆ If players are not placed on a legion team, they are invited to join the community league

LEGION TEAMS 15U-18U



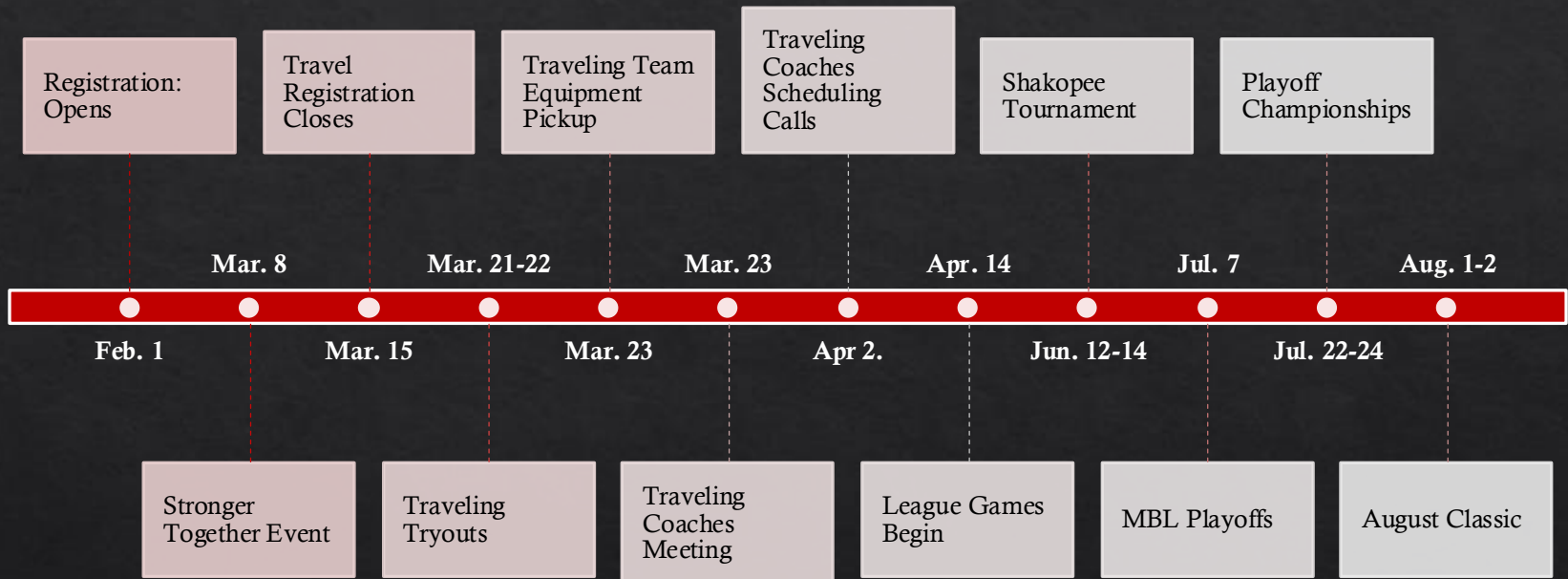
- ◇ **Open:** to **ALL** players in 4th-12th grade
- ◇ **Age Level:** based on age as of May 1st, 2026 or their grade during the 2025-2026 school year
 - ◇ 4th/5th Grade
 - ◇ 6/7th Grade
 - ◇ 8/9th Grade
 - ◇ 10-12th Grade
- ◇ **Practice:** 1-2x per week
- ◇ **League Games:** 10-12 played locally
- ◇ **Year End Tournament:** 1 weekend in July
- ◇ **Evaluations:** to determine skill levels and create equal teams on April 11th
- ◇ **League Dates:** April 27 – June 26 (pending fields opening by city)
- ◇ **Registration Fee:** \$250

COMMUNITY **LEAGUE** **AGES 9-18**





IMPORTANT DATES:



Stronger Together

ONE PROGRAM, ONE TEAM



Bases, Bags & Paddles GAME DAY!

Bringing our youth and high school baseball players together for a fun, relaxed afternoon of pickleball, bean bags, and team bonding. A great chance to connect, compete, and celebrate our baseball family before the season begins.



When: March 8th from 2:00-5:00pm



Where: Drop Shot (1100 Shakopee Town Square, Shakopee)



What: Bean Bag tournaments, Pickleball tournaments, Silent Auction, Raffle Drawings, Food Trucks

Cost: \$10 per participant per tournament



TENTATIVE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE:

[illegible]

STATE TOURNAMENT DATES:

| | MBT | GSTC |
|-------|------------|------------|
| 9A | July 17-19 | July 24-26 |
| 9AAA | July 17-19 | July 10-12 |
| 10A | July 10-12 | July 24-26 |
| 10AAA | July 10-12 | July 17-19 |
| 11A | July 17-19 | July 24-26 |
| 11AAA | July 10-12 | July 17-19 |
| 12A | July 10-12 | July 24-26 |
| 12AA | July 17-19 | July 10-12 |
| 13A | July 10-12 | July 24-26 |
| 13AA | July 17-19 | July 10-12 |
| 14AA | July 10-12 | July 24-26 |

A stylized graphic on the left side of the page. It features a white baseball bat with a red and white striped barrel, positioned diagonally. The bat is set against a background of white, curved, overlapping shapes that resemble a stylized field or a series of waves. The entire graphic is set against a dark gray background.

SYBA OPEN GYM

- ◆ When: January – March
- ◆ Where: HS Field House or Middle School Gyms
- ◆ Cost: FREE for all players (gym fees covered by the SYBA)
- ◆ Schedule: Official schedule per age group can be found on the Shakopee Baseball Website
- ◆ Open gyms are led by volunteer coaches/parents/SYBA board members.
- ◆ Any parents planning on coaching this year are encouraged to attend all sessions for their player(s) age groups.
- ◆ PLEASE NOTE:
 - ◆ Open gym times are not facilitated practices. Parent chaperones are required at every session. Parent involvement/ support is highly encouraged.



Pre-Tryout Practices

- Optional indoor practice sessions in March will be offered for ages 9-14 before the regular tryouts
- Dates & Times to be shared after registration
- Session Goal: to work on the skills that will be evaluated during tryouts, so players are as successful as possible on the tryout dates

Interested Coaches: please attend your age specific sessions to help work with players/ learn about who you may have an opportunity to choose to complete their rosters. (If selected to be a Head Coach).

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REQUIRED TRAVELING TRYOUTS

9U-14U

- ◆ **When:** March 21nd & 22rd
- ◆ **Where:** MASH Facility, HS Field House, and West Middle School
- ◆ **Cost:** \$40 (non-refundable)
- ◆ **Evaluators:** High School Coaches
- ◆ **Coordinating/Assisting:** High School Players (They do not have the ability to score a player)
- ◆ **Evaluation:**
 - ◆ Hitting
 - ◆ Throwing / Arm strength
 - ◆ Fielding (infield and outfield),
 - ◆ Speed.
 - ◆ Pitchers and catchers are evaluated separately.

Results will be posted on the Shakopee website shortly after try-out completion scores are shared with parents via email



REVAMPED TRAVELING TRYOUTS

9U-14U

We will have a revamped tryout process this year based on survey feedback.

Changes to Evaluation Process:

- ◆ Each team will have 8 locked picks across all age groups based on the tryout results (previously older age groups had 6-7 locked picks).
- ◆ Remaining coach's picks will be determined by the head coach with input from the Travel Directors and SYBA president.
- ◆ Factors considered for coaches picks: tryout results, 2025 season performance, winter practice attendance, team needs for pitchers/catchers, etc.
- ◆ A pitching machine has been added to the hitting portion of the tryout.
- ◆ Players will receive a practice round in each area before being evaluated.
- ◆ The full evaluated tryout will be at Mash to utilize the turf and open space.

TRYOUTS 9U-14U

Please keep in perspective . . . the big picture

The main goal of evaluations/tryouts is to place kids at a competitive level for this summer. This will not impact a player's baseball status in Shakopee for life! Rosters change every year.

It does not matter in high school where you played or how well you played in youth baseball. It will only matter how you perform in school and on the baseball field when you are in high school!

There are too many examples of how kids change over the years to predict high school success; there are examples (good and bad) EVERY YEAR.

It's often a better situation to be a top player on a lower team than a bottom player on a top team . . .

Improve each day, play hard, have fun – just be glad you're on a team and that you have the opportunity to play the great game of baseball this summer! That's the big picture.

Travel Uniforms

Option #4
Travel



Option #5A
Travel
Community League



- ◇ 9U-14U keep their Jersey
- ◇ Legion Jerseys are loaned (wear hat from the spring)



- ◇ Hat & Jersey size collected at registration
- ◇ White baseball pants
- ◇ Red Helmet
- ◇ Red Socks and Belt (recommended)

SYBA Uniforms

Helmet: Red Helmets Required for all ages

Hats: We are putting player names on all hats this year to reduce lost, misplaced hats

You may also order an extra hat for your player as part of the registration for an additional charge

Baseball Cleats: 12U and under must wear plastic spikes, 13U and up must wear metal spikes

Saber Merch: Saber Baseball Merchandise can also be purchased for a limited time at Innovative Graphics online store from 01/25 – 02/16

<https://syba-spring-store-2026.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

Orders will be available to pick up at travel evaluations on 03/22/26. Items are custom made and there will be no returns or exchanges.

EQUIPMENT: BASEBALL BAT

| Level | Max diameter at the thickest part of the bat | “Drop” (length minus weight) | Stamp |
|-----------|--|------------------------------|---------------|
| 9U-11U | 2 ¾ or less | Unlimited | USSSA or USA |
| 12U & 13U | 2 ¾ or less | -10 | USSSA or USA |
| 14U | 2 ¾ or less | -5 | USSSA or USA |
| 14 | 2 ⅝ or less | -3 | BBCOR (Omaha) |
| 15U-18U | 2 ⅝ or less | -3 | BBCOR |

- ❖ Players need to provide their own bat.
- ❖ For 9U to 13U, it is recommended to purchase a USSSA bat (more “pop”) vs. a USA bat
- ❖ If your player needs a new bat check our swap meet the day of tryouts!



EQUIPMENT: CATCHERS GEAR

- ◇ SYBA will provide one set of catcher's gear for each travel team, in house team, as well as all the community league teams
- ◇ You can purchase your own catcher's equipment if you prefer
- ◇ SYBA requires the catcher's equipment has the NOCSAE certification



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TRAVELING REGISTRATION FEES

- ◆ Registration includes:
 - ◆ 2 Jerseys (9u-14u)
 - ◆ Hat w/name
 - ◆ Practice T-shirt
 - ◆ Game fees including city fee, league fees, tournaments, umpires
 - ◆ Non-refundable tryout Fee
 - ◆ Insurance
 - ◆ Baseballs and catcher's equipment
 - ◆ Comprehensive online background check for all coaches
- ◆ Registration does NOT include state tournament fees. Each team would be responsible for their entry in any state tournament; typically, around \$50 per state tourney per family
- ◆ Refund: If your player plays on a community league team instead of travel, you will be refunded the difference (less \$40 tryout fee)

TRAVELING REGISTRATION FEES

| Level | Register by Feb 17 th |
|-------|----------------------------------|
| 9U | \$550 |
| 10U | \$550 |
| 11U | \$550 |
| 12U | \$550 |
| 13U | \$550 |
| 14U | \$650 |

For Traveling Teams, there will be a \$25 discount if your registration is completed by Feb 17th. Fees listed above are reflective of this discount.





Registration Payment Options

Two Payment Options:

1) Pay in FULL at registration

2) Payment Plan:

1/3 at Registration

1/3 on April 1

1/3 on May 1

2nd and 3rd Payment will be automatically charged to the credit/debit card originally used at registration.

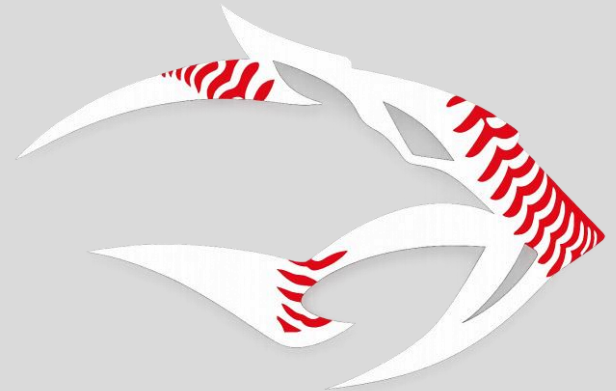
A registration assistance program is available, for more information please reach out to the SYBA board.

COACHES

COACHES ARE A VITAL PART OF OUR PROGRAM!

- ◇ 1 Head Coach
- ◇ 2-3 Assistant Coaches
- ◇ 1 Team Manager

- ◇ **Traveling Coaches:**
 - ◇ Have a strong knowledge of baseball skills and game management
 - ◇ Have a desire to improve the baseball skills of every player on the team
 - ◇ Ability to provide a fun atmosphere throughout the entire season
 - ◇ Good communicator with players and parents
 - ◇ Attend coaches' meetings and league scheduling meeting
 - ◇ Be a strong role model for both players and parents



Interested in Coaching?

Please answer 'Yes' with your intent online during registration of your son. You will select if interested in Head Coaching, Assistant Coaching, or both.

A formal application will follow.

****All coaches must complete the Trusted Coaches training and background check****

Head coaching applicants may be interviewed by a panel of Board members, as needed (especially if new to program)

Head coaches will be selected by the Board, based on:

- Prior coaching experience and parent surveys

- Interviews

- Application answers

- The level their player automatically qualified for

Once Head coaches are selected, they will select their staff of assistant coaches

FIELD MAINTENANCE

- ◆ After games and practices, players are expected to help coaches with field maintenance.
- ◆ The players should not leave until the team is finished cleaning up the field area and dugouts – leave the field better than when you arrived
- ◆ This is part of being on the team, especially once players begin on fields with more maintenance (clay mounds, tarps, dugouts, etc.).

SYBA partnered with The Shed Athletics for team training sessions!



We received great feedback
from everyone who
experienced The Shed last
year!

- ◆ When: Three 90 Min sessions in April
- ◆ Where: The Shed in Jordan (16775 Greystone Lane)
- ◆ What to Expect:
 - ◆ 2 coaches from The Shed
 - ◆ Teams will have the cages to themselves each session
 - ◆ Teams will be split into 2 groups
 - ◆ Each group will complete 2 sessions
 - ◆ Hitting
 - ◆ Pitching/Throwing
- ◆ Benefit:
 - ◆ Live-at-bats against each other to simulate in-game experience before real games start
 - ◆ Use of The Shed Athletics equipment/technology (Rapsodos, radar guns, plyos, under/overload bats, etc.)³⁴



UMPIRING

Indicate interest when
registering online

Umpire Training Meeting:
TBA

Umpire Coordinator: Brent
Vannier
(brentavannier@gmail.com)

Open to Shakopee baseball players 13-18
years of age

Requirements:

- ◇ Attend umpire training
- ◇ Participate in umpiring preseason
scrimmages

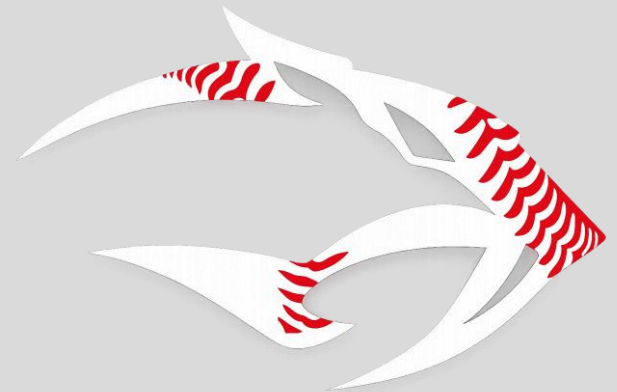
Compensation:

- ◇ Little League: \$40 per game
- ◇ Minor League: \$63 per game
- ◇ Valley, Sr. Valley League & HS
Community League: \$70 per game
- ◇ 9s & 10s Traveling: \$63 per game
- ◇ Other traveling games will also be
available: \$63-\$70 per game

VOLUNTEERING (DIBS)

- ◆ Shakopee Tournament June 12-14
- ◆ Travel: 6 hours required per players family
- ◆ In House/ Community League: 2 hours required per players family (NEW)
- ◆ Max 12 for multi-player families
- ◆ Partial shifts are not allowed
- ◆ If your DIBS are not met, the credit card on file will be charged \$500 (Travel) \$250 (In-House/Community league)
- ◆ Email will be sent out to signup for volunteer shifts on www.shakopeeyouthbaseball.com
- ◆ Volunteering Credits:
 - ◆ Head Coach
 - ◆ 3 (Travel) & 2 (In-House/Community League)
 - ◆ Assistant Coaches, Team Manager, Grounds Crew
 - ◆ Head Coach has final selection of credits awarded

Tournament proceeds are re-invested back into the baseball association-field improvements, equipment, etc.



New fundraising option with player incentives!



Player Yard Sign



- ❖ Purchased at registration
- ❖ \$30/ sign
- ❖ Includes Jersey Number and Year
- ❖ Customize with player name or nickname



- ◆ Snap! Raise is the nation's leading fundraising platform for groups, clubs & teams like SYBA, including multiple associations in Shakopee.
- ◆ Snap Raise is an easy, effective way to generate some fundraising dollars without having to go door-to-door selling pizzas, jerky, softener salt, etc!
- ◆ This should only take 20 minutes of your time; providing legitimate contacts (phone or emails) of your family/friends/co-workers/cousins/neighbors/etc.
- ◆ Travel must provide 15 contacts
- ◆ In-House/Community League must provide 10 contacts
- ◆ Non-participation charge is \$100 for Travel and \$50 for In-House/Community League

Snap! Raise proceeds benefit the SYBA program and are used for new equipment, field improvements, and training opportunities.

- ◆ Funds raised from our 2025 campaign were used towards:
 - ◆ Supplementing 50% of the cost for training with The Shed
 - ◆ Additional gym space for winter indoor training
 - ◆ New equipment; including L-screens, hitting screens, netting, pitching mound improvements, and field tarps
 - ◆ Field improvements on 2 Westminster fields
 - ◆ Launch of new winter wiffle ball program for 4-7 year olds



CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS

- ◆ Your sponsorship provides your business with significant exposure to over 450 SYBA families, as well as hundreds of Shakopee tournament attendees from across town and across the state!
- ◆ The Shakopee youth baseball association has multiple different options to choose from to help your business grow with your donation. We have our SYBA website, social media platforms, t-shirts, banners, and scoreboard options! If you have special offer coupons as well with the right donation, we can help hand those out.
- ◆ SYBA is always open to different ideas of sponsorship and willing to work with a sponsor to make sure both parties are benefiting from the relationship.
- ◆ For more information or to become a sponsor visit <https://www.shakopeeyouthbaseball.com/page/show/6793880-sponsor>

Shakopee Youth Baseball Association
is switching to Crossbar!



Facebook: Shakopee Youth Baseball
Association – as of Dec. 2025

Instagram: shakoyouthbb

X (*Twitter*): ShakoYouthBB

SYBA Website
&
Social Media

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RESOURCES:

- ♦ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/17TB24QEYU/?mibextid=wwXIfr>
- ♦ Travel Team Rules: www.mbl.bz
- ♦ In-House Community League Rules: <https://www.shakopeedyouthbaseball.com/program/syba-community-league-10u-18u/30589>
- ♦ Merch Store: <https://syba-spring-store-2026.itemorder.com/shop/home/>
- ♦ Winter Training Schedule: <https://www.shakopeedyouthbaseball.com/about/open-gym/151775>

A stylized, dark grey outline of a tiger's head is positioned in the background, facing right. The tiger has red and white stripes on its face and neck. Two horizontal red lines are drawn across the slide, one above and one below the word "QUESTIONS?".

QUESTIONS?

This presentation will be posted on the SYBA website

Refer to Website “FAQ”

www.shakopeeyouthbaseball.com for details

Have a great season!