



## **History and Experience**

Hello. My name is Aaron Kaderavek and I'm honored to have been nominated for a Sauk Prairie Youth Hockey Association board position.

My family has been involved with SPYHA since I was 2 years old when my brother Ryan started as an Ice mite in 1987. At that time the organization was still referred to as Tri-County Hockey. In 1988 or 1989, shortly after my brother started playing, then board member Ed Jelinek asked my father Lon Kaderavek to be on the SPYHA board and he was elated to accept the invitation.

I started my SPYHA journey as a Sauk Prairie Flyer back in 1990 at 5 years old, mostly skating at our home outdoor rink at Jaycee Park. I fondly recall countless hours getting dressed in the old trailer (whether the heat was working or not!) and skating down the ice paths dodging rocks while moving from outdoor rink to outdoor rink. I'll never forget watching my near-frozen father dragging a fire hose in frigid temperatures to flood the rink after we had finished skating for the day. To be honest, watching his tireless dedication time and time again in less-than-ideal conditions created a lasting impression that's stayed with me to this day.

What's been evident over the years is that the love for and dedication to hockey in this community wasn't limited to just my father and I. A close family friend, Margaret Mauch, once said in an interview about the history of the association "hockey just grew in this town". As evidence of this growth, in the early 1990s fund raising and planning began in earnest for constructing a rink. To the surprise of no one, my family was deeply involved with this planning and the inner workings of SPYHA. By 1994, my dad was president of SPYHA and there was a flurry of activity and excitement as the rink was being built. In my father's words, "We had the right people in place at the right time and there was a lot of hard work being done." I've had decades to reflect on his statement and I wholeheartedly agree with him. The dedication shown by SPYHA and the community at large was inspiring.

By 1999, as if having the only enclosed rink with heat in Sauk County wasn't already awesome enough, then hosting and winning state as a Pee wee topped it and it was electric! To close my high school playing career in my senior year in 2004, we were the only team under 500 in WIAA to go to state tournament. Looking back, I'm so humbled and grateful for all of the dedication and hard work that everyone put into SPYHA that's made it the incredible organization it is. I can say without hesitation that without SPYHA my love for and dedication to youth hockey would not have stuck with me as it has.

### **Currently**

Fast forward to over 20 years later and I can't begin to explain how excited I am to show my own dedication to youth hockey and SPYHA. My three daughters are all playing and my wife Rachel and I are now as busy and totally consumed with youth hockey as I'm sure my father and other parents were when I was young. Ever since my girls started playing I've been coaching their teams at various levels - 8U, 10U(B), 12U(B) and 10U(A). I have had an absolute blast seeing the progress that my girls and their teammates have shown and I am extremely excited to see what the future holds for them.

### **Future Goals**

I would be honored to share my deeply engrained dedication and lifelong love of hockey to the SPYHA board. I'm confident that I can bring fresh ideas to help further development of the program. I'm excited to engage with individual teams and players while teaching respect, teamwork, work ethic, and leadership since these traits are important to both hockey and life.

My goal as a potential board member and as one of the coaches is always to create a fun environment for the development of youth players and to give an opportunity to every child in SPYHA to grow as an athlete and more importantly as a human being. Just like witnessing my father's dedication made a lasting impression on me, I'd like nothing more than to be a

good example for not only my children but for all players involved with SPYHA. I believe that the keys to helping our sport grow even more is to continue to build strong relationships between board members, coaches, parents. We've all seen what happens when a community and organization come together with a common purpose, and I know that a role on the board of SPYHA would enable me to make the greatest impact possible.

**Come on, already! Wrap it up!**

Throughout the course of my life my father and my mother have taught me many lessons. They've led by example and have shown me that hard work, respect, and good judgement allow people to accomplish pretty much anything. I firmly believe that children are a clear reflection of their parents and mentors and the lessons learned while playing youth hockey can help shape young people into great adults. If I am elected to the board, I will give everything I have to make the best use of my loyalty, dedication, and hard work while furthering the goals of SYPHA. Over the past 40 years my family has been involved in SPYHA and it has become part of our family identity. I am very passionate about the game and am truly humbled by my family's history and the lifelong friends we have made within SPYHA along the way. In my own way, I'd like to show fellow board members, coaches, parents, and players that persevering and dragging a fire hose in frigid temperatures will foster a lasting love for the game and the lessons it teaches.

Thank you for your consideration!

Aaron Kaderavek