

Baseball Players Wanted



7U Junior Cougar Baseball - 2017

The 7U Junior Cougar Team is looking for next year's players for the 2018 season. Our goal is to have 2 or more teams.

Why Junior Cougars:

Joining 7U is a great opportunity for your child to grow as a player, while focusing on individual skills and teamwork. The teams will have access to indoor/outdoor facilities starting in spring. The 7U program is Coach Pitch and focuses on learning ALL aspects of the game. It is a great beginning program for a child who enjoys and understands the concept of baseball.

Age requirement: 7 years old as of April 30th, 2018.
Minimum age is 5 years old.

Tryout Date/Time: Wednesday, October 11, 2017
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Where: Arthur Elementary
2630 B Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Please email or call the number below if you are interested in playing with the Cougars in 2018.*

Scott Strasburger – 7U Cougar Gold Coach - ScottStras@gmail.com

Amy Strasburger – Amy@KatalystSystemsImpact.com / Phone: 319-270-3237

* Scott & Amy helped coach the 7U Green team last year with boys in Kindergarten and 1st Grade. They now have a son on the 8U Gold and son on 7U. They have experienced other recreation programs in Cedar Rapids and can give insight on if this program is right for your child.

FIND OUT MORE AT <http://www.jrcougarbaseball.org/>
FOLLOW US at <https://www.facebook.com/junior.cougars.7>

7U Junior Cougar Program Information

(written by Jr. Cougar Parent)

Cougar Program Overview

The program will introduce young players (5 yr. – 7 yr. olds) to the sport of baseball and teach the fundamentals of the game, along with teaching sportsmanship, teamwork, loyalty and pride in an environment for kids who love the game. We would like to remind Parents that we love all skill level to try out, but to keep in mind this is a more competitive spirit program and may not be for every player. This is a league to work on fundamentals and basics of baseball but is not a recreational program. We do want kids who want to have fun and play ball...even if they aren't the best catchers or throwers.

Is My Child Ready or Too Young?

We have several kids who have the love for sports but are **not strong in catching and throwing** in the beginning of 7U. That is okay as we will focus on the basics in the first couple months of practice to get everyone stronger in those areas. We had my younger son last year join as a kindergartner and had never played baseball before and during an early season team scrimmage hit the ball off the tee and ran to 3rd base and had no clue which base was which...by the end of the season, he could catch, throw and hit and knew which direction to run 😊 Because we started him as a kindergartner he is able to play one more year of 7U – Coach Pitch.

Parents can worry about it being too competitive or costly (we did!) and would rather have them play other rec leagues. Last year's 7U Green team only played an average of 1 game a week along with 1 practice with only one in-town tournament. We ended up playing 12 regular season games (all weeknights/no weekends games).

This allowed the kids to continue building the basics and have fun as well as continue their other weekend sports such as soccer, etc. By starting them in this stage, they get a jumpstart for future baseball as we do not use a tee in 7U (Coach Pitch). They get six pitches...so great practice on getting better at hitting and getting ready for 8U which then is Kid Pitch.

Playing Time

To develop all players in the program, Jr. Cougar coaches of all grades strive to have equal playing time for all players on their team over the course of the entire season. This does not mean equal playing time during any given game or equal playing at all positions. We focus on safety and putting kids in positions that they have the attention span for and catching ability for safety (example Pitcher/1st). It is balanced with the program goal of developing the skills and abilities of ALL players on the roster. With 7U we find that some kids like a break and other kids love being the catcher (yes...they even get to wear catcher's gear!)

Coaches

Coaches are volunteers and may be parents of current players. The Jr. Cougar program expects each team to have two coaches (Green Team had 4 last year). The Jr. Cougar Board will also coordinate an annual coaching clinic with the Kennedy High School staff. This clinic is to guide the Jr. Cougar coaches in teaching skills and fundamentals to develop players for the Kennedy High School program.

A head coach is responsible for the overall development of the players, preparation for the next level of play, and the actual coaching of the team from the bench during the game. Coaches are expected to teach the fundamentals of the game, along with teaching sportsmanship, teamwork, loyalty and pride. Coaches are also expected to follow the Jr. Cougar Program Guidelines.

Program Funding and Program Support

The Jr. Cougar program is funded by a registration fee for each player will be established each year to cover some of the costs of program expenses, team equipment, and other miscellaneous expenses. We have several options for easy fundraising.

Because volunteerism is a key ingredient to the Jr. Cougar Program, it is expected that all parents support the program by participating team support activities (Assisting team coach) or team parent.

Program Costs

2017-2018 Registration Fees: \$200 per player. This goes towards Jersey and Hat and field rental and maintenance.

Feel free to reach out to the Junior Cougar Board or Scott and Amy Strasburger with further questions or concerns. We look forward to having your child as a future cougars!