



JUNIOR GIANTS OVERVIEW

The Purpose of Junior Giants

Working together with Park and Recreation Departments, Police Activities Leagues, Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCAs, parents and volunteers, the Junior Giants program reaches into communities and offers youth a chance to learn the basics of baseball, but more significantly, a chance to learn the importance of self-esteem and respect. Young people, ages 5-18, are taught these values as well as the lessons of Leadership, Teamwork, Confidence, and Integrity. Junior Giants is designed to be a summertime recreational activity with play beginning in late June and ending in late August.

Junior Giants, the flagship program of the Giants Community Fund, is a free, non-competitive and co-ed baseball program for youth ages 5-18 years old. The Community Fund provides jerseys, hats and baseball equipment necessary to run a league, as well as tickets to select Giants games so that the youth can experience a major league baseball game.

Junior Giants began in 1994 as a positive alternative to gangs and drugs for at-risk youth. Now entering its 16th year, the program has over 15,000 participants in 83 leagues across California and into Oregon and Nevada. The program welcomes kids from all backgrounds and encourages them to live healthy and productive lives by getting outside and playing baseball!

Along with the fundamentals of baseball, Junior Giants focuses on the Four Bases of Character Development: Leadership, Teamwork, Confidence, and Integrity. This framework gets integrated into the Junior Giants handbook that is distributed to all players and parents. Character Development is also echoed in the training provided to all of the coaches.

The Community Fund has continued to enhance its rapidly growing program by integrating Education, Health and Violence Prevention curriculums into the Junior Giants program (see specific plans under "Education, Health and Violence Prevention Programs"). This has helped us to create a well-rounded program for youth, both on and off the field.

The features that set Junior Giants apart from other leagues are:

- It is a non-competitive league
- It is a co-ed baseball league
- It is a free program
- Pitching machines are used
- Programs in Education, Health, and Violence Prevention are offered