



Dear Neenah and Menasha Parents,

Let's play ball!! Through a partnership with the local police departments and the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation we are excited to announce that the **Badges for Baseball** program will be coming again to Neenah and Menasha this summer. The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation's **Badges for Baseball** program offers opportunities for middle school aged boys and girls to participate in baseball/softball activities while learning life lessons, such as teamwork, leadership, and communication that apply to life both on and off a baseball field through the character development portion of the program, *Healthy Choices, Healthy Children*. We at Youth Go are excited to be a part of this great partnership and to help bring this program to the youth of this community for the ninth year.

The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice, created **Badges for Baseball** as a crime prevention program designed to bring law enforcement professionals together with young people to play and learn in a safe, fun, and engaging program. The program uses baseball and softball themed activities to help build character and teach critical life lessons to all youth. Founded in 2001 by members of the Ripken family in memory of their patriarch Cal, Sr., the Foundation works to create programs that positively impact youth through active community partnerships with America's most successful youth service organizations.

This program will be offered in both Neenah and Menasha at no-cost. Parents should complete the attached registration and photography release forms and return it to Youth Go by June 1st. If you would like more information or have any questions, please contact Timothy Chappa at Youth Go at (920) 722-1435.

Sincerely,

Timothy Chappa
Program Supervisor & Recreation Coordinator

"The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation is thrilled to have the opportunity to team with the fine people of Wisconsin's Fox Valley to provide this innovative mentoring opportunity to help youth find a path to positive, productive citizenship. It's through cooperative partnerships like this that can help show youth a world of possibilities and help to prevent the troubles associated with juvenile delinquency." -Steve Salem, Executive Director of the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation

Badges for Baseball Quick Facts

Who can participate?

The *Badges for Baseball* Program is for girls and boys in 4th-8th grade in the Fox Valley.

What is Badges for Baseball?

Badges for Baseball is a non-competitive, fun and educational program offered at no-cost. No experience is needed and all equipment will be provided. Coaches will consist of staff from Youth Go and local police officers. Youth will meet to play baseball/softball, learn life lessons from their coaches and have fun!

Where and When will it take place?

The program will begin June 12th in Menasha and June 6th in Neenah, and continue each week in your designated city until August 17th. Youth will meet either at **Jefferson Park (East Diamond)** on Tuesdays from 1:00pm-2:30pm if you sign up for **Menasha**, or at **Memorial Park (Diamond #2)** on Wednesdays from 1:00pm-2:30pm if you sign up for **Neenah**. Scrimmages between Menasha and Neenah will be held Fridays, starting June 29th, at the field next to **Roosevelt School (215 E Forest Ave)** in Neenah. **(No scrimmage July 6, July 13, and August 3).**

Why should I participate?

To learn more about baseball, to be part of a team, to have something new and exciting to do during your summer at no cost to you! Also, a few participants will even have the chance to attend Training Camp in Maryland for an all expense paid trip to an overnight summer camp in August!

There will be a Welcome Day at Youth Go (213 Nicolet Blvd in Neenah) on Saturday, June 2nd, at 1pm so parents and youth participants will have an opportunity to meet the staff supervising the program and ask any questions they might have.

Contact Timothy at Youth Go at 722-1435 with any questions!