

American Legion Baseball

A program for the ages

American Legion Baseball is very well known as the most successful and tradition-rich amateur athletic leagues in existence. This iconic program registers teams in all 50 states and Canada and is open to young people from age 13 through 19. About 4,000 teams compete each year, so there's ample opportunity for new players to join, and for coaches who want to start a team. The league also employs a large number of umpires and other volunteers.

Since its inception, this program has churned out millions of young players that have gone on to play for college and professional baseball teams and currently there are 68 former Legion Baseball players inducted into Major League Baseball Hall of Fame.

Our alumni base includes more than half of current Major League Baseball players and as well almost every working MLB manager, along with several former commissioners. A few prominent and well known players of Legion Baseball are Yogi Berra, Ted Williams, Justin Verlander, Ryne Sandberg, Roy Campanella, Dusty Baker, Albert Pujols, Greg Maddux, Johnny Bench, Carlton Fisk, Bob Feller, Carl Yastrzemski, Chipper Jones, and many, many more. Babe Ruth was too old to join when Legion Baseball started, but he spent the final years of his life promoting the program as its director of operations.

Legion Baseball isn't the only area where former players have excelled. Legion Baseball graduates have gone on to prominence in other career fields. Former Vice President Dick Cheney played for Post 2 in Casper, Wyoming. Famed journalist and author Tom Brokaw played Legion ball in South Dakota, and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack was on a team in Pennsylvania.

More than 3,700 teams participated in the 2016 Legion Baseball season, which resulted in eight teams punching their tickets to Shelby, N.C., for the 90th America Legion World Series.

This year American Legion Baseball is undertaking new procedures of the "Pitch Smart Compliance Program" and it's recognized by Major League Baseball and USA Baseball as a fully Pitch Smart compliant organization ahead of the 2017 season. Pitch Smart is a joint initiative between Major League Baseball and USA Baseball that provides safe pitching practices to help reduce the risk of arm injuries in amateur players. "Full Pitch Smart compliance represents the highest level of commitment to the program and is defined by the incorporation of Pitch Smart guidelines pertaining to pitch counts and rest periods across all competitions, as well as supporting Pitch Smart educational efforts across all platforms."

Submitted by,

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Sons of the American Legion

*Source – American Legion website,
usabaseball.com*