



Dear Prospective Host Family:

Thank you for your interest in hosting a DC Gray's summer league baseball player. As a past host myself, I can honestly say that the experience you are considering is one that you and your family will remember forever. My kids still stay in touch with the players we have hosted and they have even come down to visit after the season.

The players you will meet are on a path to play baseball at the Major league level and have decided to give up their summers with family and friends to chase this dream. Our goal is to provide them with a home away from home so they can concentrate on their sport.

Although they look like men, these are still kids who will get frustrated, lonely and tired, so having a host family to rely on makes all the difference.

In the enclosed folder we outline the program and all the details you will need before committing to house "a future Major Leaguer". If you have further questions or would like to sign up please contact me at the email/phone below and I can arrange a site visit.

Thanks for requesting information and I hope that you can help us in the coming season.

Sincerely,

Scott Burr
Director
Player Housing
DC Grays

General Information

The Team:

The DC Gray's was founded in 2000 as a summer collegiate wood bat team. The goal was to provide opportunities for players attending Historically Black Colleges to develop their skills and give them a leg up in becoming major league players. The players also acted as interns/mentors for a number of local youth programs throughout the city. The team hired its first full time coach several years later and became a leading team in the 50yr old Clark Griffith Summer League. The team has evolved dramatically since then by taking on a professional board, a general manager and has recruited top coaching and talent from NCAA Division 1 schools around the country. The Gray's joined the Cal Ripken league in 2012 and in their inaugural year posted an 18-21 record, good for 7th place in the league.

The League:

The DC Grays play in the Cal Ripken Summer Collegiate League (<http://www.calriipkenleague.org>).

The league was formed in 2005 by Cal Ripken and has replaced the former Clark Griffith Baseball League founded in 1945 (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clark_Griffith_Collegiate_Baseball_League). The league, with Cal Ripken's support, has quickly become one of the premier summer baseball leagues in the country. Other teams in the league include the Herndon Braves, the Vienna Riverdogs and the Bethesda Big Train, which, as the biggest team in the league, built Shirley Povich stadium in 1998 for their games and averages over 550 fans per game.

The Players:

Player's in the Cal Ripken league are recruited from mostly Division 1 colleges across the United States. Division 1 schools are the elite schools which offer scholarships and generally are a feeder system to the professional sports teams. The DC Grays have taken players from Colleges such as Florida Tech, Lafayette and North Carolina University. The team each year also takes at least one player from Gallaudet University for the Deaf. Players are required to have a year of eligibility left in college (Freshman/Sophomore/Juniors) and must apply for the team in September. The Grays general manager recruits and chooses players based on skill level and recommendations from college coaches.

Many if not most of the Alumni from the league go on to be drafted in the Major Leagues. Past Alumni include Cody Allen, pitcher with the Cleveland Indians and Brett Cecil, pitcher with the Toronto Blue Jays.

The Role of a Host family:

The role of the host family is to provide housing and meals to the players. Housing requirements include a bed, a private room if at all possible, and access to a bathroom and kitchen. Players also need access to laundry services since they need to wash uniforms and personal items. Host families are not asked to do the players laundry.

Meals are up to the player and host family to work out. Players may arrive home until late since games do not typically start on weeknights until 5-7pm. Most families simply leave leftovers and teach the players how to use the stove. Other than room and board Host families are simply asked to monitor the player and help with anything they need. Most are new to the area so directions, help in finding restaurants and stores and getting them up to speed on local issues is always appreciated.

Costs Involved:

The largest cost during their stay is for food. As a warning, these kids are growing athletes and can eat almost as much as you can feed them. We recommend that you simply make an extra helping or two of you normal meal and that is sufficient. Based on this we calculate that over the course of the 9 weeks your total food bill may come to \$600.

Drug and Alcohol Policy :

DC Grays Players are not allowed to drink while playing for the team. College students are underage in almost all states and should not be allowed any leeway on this policy.

Guests /House Rules

Players are not allowed to invite other players, friends or girlfriends to your home without your specific approval. The players must abide by any house rules you establish and are expected to maintain themselves in an adult manor at all times. Loud music, excessive phone use etc is not acceptable behavior. We try and set up at least one host family event so people can share stories and best practices, however, feel free to call the housing director with any concerns and/or ideas.

The Schedule:

Players report to the Gray's team approximately 1-2 days before the season starts in Early June and need housing thru the end of July. Exact dates for the season are released in January/February each year and will be passed along to the host family as they become available. The league does have a short playoff at the end of the season which may extend the players time thru the first week of August.

On a daily basis the players report to practice in the early afternoon and then play games at night starting at either 5pm or 7pm. Players get 1 day off a week but otherwise play every day. On their days off, the team sometimes schedules sightseeing or other local events for the players. Families however are more than welcome to provide tours or invite players to participate in family events.

Some players may take part time jobs and/or take on volunteer roles while they are here. In this case schedules might vary. Prior to the season, we set up a conference call for the host family to talk with the player (and his parents if needed) to get all the detailed information.

The players will be leaving and arriving home many times while you are at work or are asleep. Therefore, they will require a key and any access codes for security systems you may have. We also advise that you notify neighbors that a new person will be coming and going from your house so as to not cause any confusion. If you have events coming up or bedtimes that the player needs to be aware of please let us know.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What must I provide for the player(s) I host?

At the very least, families are required to supply players with a room, a regular bed, access to laundry and access to the kitchen.

2. Am I expected to provide Transportation?

No, all players arrive with their own vehicle and transport themselves to and from games. Many are new to the DC area however so will need help with directions etc.

3. How long do I provide Housing?

Players arrive by June 1st and stay until the first week of August. Exact dates depend on the season schedule and if the players team makes the playoffs.

4. What if we go on vacation or need to go out of town during the season?

Many families have vacations during the season. If you do not feel comfortable leaving the player at the house we can make arrangements to have them stay elsewhere during that period. However, players do make great dog walkers.

5. Is it Safe to leave to players at the house alone?

Yes, the players are responsible Division 1 athletes and are screened prior to be offered a position on the team.

6. What does it cost in food etc during the season?

Depending on how many meals you provide it will be equal to having 1 extra adult at each meal. A rough budget for the season however is about \$1200.

7. Do we have to cook every meal for them?

No, players understand that they are on their own for meals but most families do provide at least two meals per day.

8. What kind of space do they need?

A bedroom is the best, however if your house has a pull out couch in a separated basement that might be sufficient. Players play late into the night and don't report to practice until mid day so the more secluded the space the better is for all.

9. Can I host more than one player?

Yes, if you have the space this is ideal for the players. In many cases we will pair up players from the same school and/or already know each other.

10. Do players have to abide by our house/family rules?

Yes, players are told that this host program is a privilege and not a right. If a player does not follow house rules or relate to the family appropriately then they will be removed from the program.

11. Do we need to attend games?

No, not unless you want to. The kids however really do feel as though you are their second family so if you can make it to a few and provide encouragement that is helpful. All games are also posted live on the league website.

12. Can we choose which player we host?

No, we will try and match players with families as best we can. If you have requests such as their position or home state please let us know early.

Registration

Step 1:

Once you have contacted the housing director, the team will set up a site visit (if needed) to evaluate housing requirements, answer any questions and review players available to be housed.

Step 2:

You will need to sign the housing agreement and return to the housing director by April 15th.

Step 3:

We will pass along the name, phone and family name and phone to you and help set up a conference call if needed. At this time you can learn of any dietary or medical requirements the player may have.

Step 4:

Welcome your player! Players arrive at least 1 day before practices and/or games start. The exact arrival date varies however since the player's college teams participate in the College NCAA tournament. Players join the DC Grays team after they are knocked out of the tournament and have a short visit at home.

I, _____ agree to house a DC Gray's Summer Baseball Player from the period of early June until early August under the information provided in the DC Grays Host family package. Our family will make every effort to provide a second home to incoming players and help teach them skills needed to become mature young adults. Our family understands the costs involved and the time commitment required. We agree to make every reasonable effort to maintain a stable home environment for the DC Grays players

Signed:

Host Family Representative

Contact Information

Board members

Chairman	Mike Barbera	barbera@acg-consultants.com
Housing Director	Scott Burr	
Player Relations	Chris Spera	
Communications	Kevin McGuiness	
Marketing	open	
Field Operations	Chris Spera	
Community Outreach	Greg	
Volunteer Recruitment	Brad Burris	
General Manager	Antonio Scott	antonioscott@smarteryouth.org
Secretary	open	
Treasurer	open	

Housing Contacts

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