

## Why Far North Little League Needs Volunteers

Far North Little League is operated solely by volunteer efforts. Each year it takes over 14,000 volunteer hours to run the season smoothly. We are always in need of additional volunteers to help with all sorts of league activities.

People sometimes ask **“Why does Far North Little League need so many volunteers...more than the other sports my child is involved with?”** There are many reasons, but here are just a few of the major ones.

**FACILITIES** – Far North Little League manages and maintains all four fields at the Abbott Loop Community Park. We don't just rent the fields from the city. We fully maintain them. By not renting facilities, we are able to keep fees low for families. However, it takes a significant amount of volunteer time to keep the fields in safe and good playing condition. Not only do we maintain the grass (which takes a lot of mowing time), we maintain the dirt, bases, backstops, mounds, dugouts, batting cages, fencing, etc. These areas need major upkeep every season and volunteers are the ones that do it.

**UMPIRING** – Unlike many other sports, we cannot simply hire referees or umpires. A pool of umpires just is not available here in Anchorage. We prefer to have two trained umpires per game (one in the field and one behind the plate). Far North Little League has over 350 games each season. Multiply that by 2 people and you know why we are always in need of more umpires.

**SCOREKEEPING** – Baseball and softball require proper scorekeeping and keeping track of pitch count. Other sports don't need many scorekeepers but ours does. Scorekeepers (and in baseball pitch counters) are required for every game.

**CONCESSIONS** - Far North operates a concession stand for our players, families, and visitors to the fields. It is run not by a vendor, but by volunteers. We have considered contracting this out to a vendor but it is a major source of funding for the league and we would lose significant a portion of our budget if it is not run by volunteers. People are needed to shop for goods, manage, and operate the concessions stand.

Thus, in addition to the needs that other sports have like coaches, schedulers, and uniform/equipment managers, Far North Little League requires more volunteer hours. **If you wonder why every family is being asked to help, it is because we simply can't do it without the help of literally hundreds of you!**