

APPLICATION DIRECTIONS: PLEASE REVIEW THESE DIRECTIONS BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER COMPLETING YOUR APPLICATION TO ENSURE ACCURACY!

The instructions listed below must be followed in order for your application to be reviewed and considered. Thank you for your attention to these requirements.

Please note, application to the First Stick Program does not guarantee selection into the program. All applications will be reviewed based on demonstrated financial need, team's prebuilt foundation for success, overall quality and leadership of the program and letters of recommendation. US Lacrosse reserves the right to select applicants based on these criteria among other contributing factors to the selection process such as budget availability and receipt date of application.

- This application **MUST** be completed using **Adobe Acrobat Reader**. If you don't have **Adobe Acrobat Reader** on your Mac or PC, you can download it for free by visiting <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>.
 - All information entered on this form must be typed.
- Each application submission should include two (2) letters of recommendation. These letters must include a signature by the author. Please email the letters along with this application to sportdevelopment@uslacrosse.org.
 - One (1) from a leader within the organization, (i.e. principal, athletic director, coach, program director, club president, etc.)
 - The individual completing the First Stick Program application **CANNOT** write a recommendation letter on behalf of the team and have it serve as a letter from within the organization.
 - One (1) from a community member outside the applicant team (i.e. local US Lacrosse Chapter, community leader, sponsors, etc.)
 - Connecting with your local US Lacrosse Chapter is a critical part of the process of starting and developing a lacrosse team. We highly recommend making a connection with your local chapter, if you haven't already, as part of the application process for the First Stick Program. We also strongly encourage you to include a letter of recommendation from your local US Lacrosse Chapter representative as one of the required letters for application. Visit www.uslacrosse.org/chapters to find out more about US Lacrosse Chapters.
- **DO NOT** submit additional materials with your application (brochures, certificates, presentations, videos, etc.)
- All completed applications must be **EMAILED** to US Lacrosse to sportdevelopment@uslacrosse.org.
 - **DO NOT** mail or fax completed applications. Content you provide on the application may not appear in its entirety on printed versions of the application due to the format of the Adobe file. As a result, mailed or faxed applications will not be reviewed.
 - If you experience difficulties with the download or electronic submission of the application, please contact the Sport Development Department at sportdevelopment@uslacrosse.org or 410-235-6882 x150 for assistance.

PART I: GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Please provide contact information for the person applying to the First Stick program on behalf of the team as well as general information about the team itself. **Reminder: Applicant must be at least 18 years old.**

Applicant Contact Information:

First and Last Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

US Lacrosse Membership ID # (if applicable-not required): _____

Relationship to Organization (i.e. Program Administrator): _____

Team/Organization General Information:

Team/Organization Name: _____

Website (if applicable-not required): _____

Type of Program:

Gender of Participants:

**If you would like both a boys and a girls' team to be considered for the First Stick Program, a separate application must be completed and submitted for each team. Please refer to the FAQ's for more information at www.uslacrosse.org/firststick.*

Level of Participants:

Current Number of Participants: _____

Equipment Grant Package (if awarded):

**Reminder: equipment package includes sticks and protective gear for 24 field players and 1 goalie.*

PART II: HISTORY & DEVELOPMENT

The US Lacrosse First Stick Program is the ESSENTIAL grassroots initiative for new and developing lacrosse teams across the country. Its purpose is to create two-year partnerships between USL and First Stick teams with the goal of creating self-sustaining programs that operate by US Lacrosse national standards and best practices. In this section, please introduce us to your team and describe the history and vision on which it is built.

1. Why, and in what year, was the team established?

2. Please describe the community from which the team draws its participants. Please include details such as demographics of the participants, a list of neighboring towns/areas, travel time to compete, parental engagement/support, etc.)

3. Please describe the short and long term goals of your team.

4. What do you feel are the most important factors to create and operate a successful lacrosse program?

5. What is the length of the team's season?

6. Please describe your plans to grow and expand participation such as hosting camps and instructional clinics, etc. outside of the team's season.

7. Please provide a list of coaches as well as those involved in other leadership capacities. For example, team coordinators, team assistants, booster club or board of directors, etc. For each, please indicate if they are full time or part time, paid or volunteer.

8. Is there a selection/tryout process for players wishing to participate? If so, please describe.

9. Is there a fee to participate on your team? If so, please list.

PART III: OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

Sustaining a lacrosse program requires a great deal of commitment. With this in mind, we are looking for teams that are working toward, and committed to, becoming self-sufficient and can operate independently of US Lacrosse.

In this section, please explain your plan to create a self-sustainable lacrosse team. **Note:** A copy of your team's budget may be submitted via email with your completed application as it supports this section, however it is not required.

1. Please describe the team's projected operational needs (i.e. uniforms, referee fees).

2. Fundraising is important to help cover costs associated with operating a team. Please provide the team's plan for fundraising on an annual basis.

3. Organizations do not necessarily need to be a 501(c)3 in order to fundraise, however if they want the donations to be tax-deductible, they do. A "501 (c) (3) organization" is a non-profit organization that is exempt from federal income tax because it meets the requirements of section 501(c) (3). "501(c) (3)" refers to a section of the Internal Revenue Code, which is the law that governs federal income tax. Does your team have 501(C) 3 status?

4. If yes, please provide your team's IRS Identification #: _____

5. If no, have you applied for 501(C) 3 status?

6. Is your team affiliated to an existing 501(C) 3 organization?

7. If yes, please provide the organization's IRS Identification #: _____

8. If your team is part of a broader organization such as the YMCA or a Police Athletic League, what is the broader organization's budget for lacrosse?

9. Please describe what tools you use to effectively communicate team information to your players, coaches, parents and outside groups. Please include what methods you use to create team awareness within your community to recruit players and/or coaches.

10. Please describe the team's plans to distribute and utilize the equipment to grow the sport and expand participation in your area.

11. Please describe the current safety measures, policies and practices that you have in place for team practices and games. (age vs. grade, AED unit on site, coaches CPR/AED certified, risk management plan, concussion awareness program, etc.)

12. Please identify and rate the areas in which you face challenges on a scale of 1 to 5; 1 being not very challenging and 5 being very challenging.

- Player recruiting
- Coach recruiting
- Player retention
- Coach retention
- Parental support/engagement
- Transportation
- Equipment
- Organizational support (board, leadership, program development)
- Working with other programs and organizations
- Assessment and outcome measurement
- Liability insurance
- Permitting, field space and facilities
- Coach education and training
- Acquisition and retention of trained Officials
- Fundraising
- Other

Part IV: Commitment

As US Lacrosse is committed to providing benefits and resources to assist in team development, each First Stick team is expected to remain committed to the First Stick Program for two years. Awarded teams will be expected to fulfill the program's requirements and expectations as outlined in the benefits chart found at www.uslacrosse.org/firststick.

13. Why do you want to be part of the US Lacrosse First Stick Program?

I certify that the enclosed information is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge. I have read, understand and agree to the objectives and responsibilities of the First Stick Program. If awarded, I understand that failure to uphold the two year commitment to the First Stick Program will result in termination of program benefits.

By checking "I agree" and initialing this box, you are electronically signing this application for submission and agreeing to the terms stated above.

I AGREE

Initial Here

***Please note that the contact information of all First Stick Program applicants will be provided to participating equipment providers of the First Stick Program. US Lacrosse is the sole owner of the information collected. We will not sell, share, rent, or otherwise disclose this information to other parties other than as disclosed in this statement. Please indicate whether or not you would like to have your information shared with equipment contributors.**

Permission to Share Contact Information: