

Embracing Traditions at Central Amherst

There are many traditions that have evolved over the years at Central Amherst.... Opening Day, Championship Saturday, Grandparent's Day, and Food Truck Friday, to name a few. One of the longest-running and most important is the Snack Stand. I know what you're thinking: "Do I really have to read an email about the Snack Stand?" Of course not, but if you allow me a few minutes of your time, hopefully you'll come to have a better understanding of not only how the stand operates, but Central Amherst in general, and how vital you are to the success of our league.

The Central Amherst Snack Stand has existed in various forms for decades. I remember my mom standing with other parents in a dimly-lit shack in the late 70's selling glass bottles of orange and grape Crush. I remember back then that having the chance to run to the stand for candy was one of my favorite things about playing little league, and that sentiment is no different today from our kids. And that's the primary purpose of the Snack Stand, to make the kids happy. And also your entire family. Little League is different from other sports in that regard. My son also plays soccer. We go to the game, drop into our folding chairs in an empty field, watch the game and go home. No frills. Little League is more than that, it's an event. On Saturdays there are six games at once, all day, and families with multiple kids can be there for hours. So you need to be offered more. You can get snacks here, catch an inexpensive lunch or dinner, or get drinks on a hot day.

The stand is much nicer now, especially in the last two years, thanks not only to hard work from volunteers, but also money. In fact, our league has experienced many fine improvements in recent years, all of which require money. And that is the other main purpose of the Snack Stand. We have several sources of revenue, including league fees, raffle tickets, and various sponsors. One of our biggest sources is the Snack Stand, and the money generated goes toward many things, seen and unseen, which provide a better experience for our Central Amherst players and families.

And that's where you come in. Our league would not function without volunteers. Our board members work tirelessly, some putting in 10-15 hours per week on top of their coaching duties. Then there are the dozens of coaches that form the backbone of our teams. We need you, as parents, to fill out the rest of our volunteer program by manning the Snack Stand, just one day per season for a couple of hours. I get a lot of questions about the stand, why we use volunteers, who can work in it, etc. Those questions can all be answered on the enclosed attachment of frequently asked questions, which I recommend you read so you know what to expect. But all we really ask is that you show up on your one scheduled day with a smile, work hard, and make the kids happy!

Thanks for your time.

Kurt Herrmann
Board of Directors
Snack Stand Coordinator