

# **DARIEN YOUTH SPORTS PLAYERS SURVEY**

## **4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys**

WHAT ARE YOUR REASONS FOR PLAYING SPORTS?

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# INTRODUCTION

- **PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT** – TO UPDATE THE 1989 MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY SURVEY: “WHAT ARE YOUR REASONS FOR PLAYING YOUTH SPORTS?”
- **2009-2010 SURVEY** – ASK THE DARIEN YOUTH ATHLETES THE SAME QUESTION IN A SIMPLE SURVEY.
- **SURVEY PROCESS** – I SURVEYED (IN-PERSON) DARIEN FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL AND BASEBALL PLAYERS AT THEIR TEAM PRACTICE SESSIONS AT THE START OF EACH SEASON. NO COACHES OR PARENTS WERE PRESENT. I COLLECTED RESPONSES FROM 682 BOYS (IN 4<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADES).

# 1989 MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY SURVEY

## WHAT ARE YOUR REASONS FOR PLAYING YOUTH SPORTS?

In 1989, boys across the United States were asked by Michigan State University researchers about their reasons for playing youth sports. These were their Top 10 responses, in order of importance:

1. To have fun
2. To do something I'm good at
3. To improve my skills
4. For the excitement of competition
5. To stay in shape
6. For the challenge of competition
7. To get exercise
8. To learn new skills
9. To play as part of a team
10. To get to a higher level of competition

THE RESEARCHERS HIGHLIGHTED THAT "TO WIN" DID NOT MAKE THE TOP 10 LIST.

# 2009-2010 DARIEN SURVEY

## WHAT ARE YOUR REASONS FOR PLAYING YOUTH SPORTS?

You have 100 points TOTAL to use. Give whatever number of points you like to these reasons, depending on how strongly you feel about each. If you don't care about a reason, give it zero points. If you care about a reason, give it some points. The more you care, the more points you should give. Remember, your TOTAL points must add to 100.

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| To stay in shape and get exercise               | _____ (0 to 100 points) |
| To improve my skills                            | _____ (0 to 100 points) |
| To have fun                                     | _____ (0 to 100 points) |
| To be a part of a team and learn teamwork       | _____ (0 to 100 points) |
| To go to a higher level of competition          | _____ (0 to 100 points) |
| To earn a college scholarship                   | _____ (0 to 100 points) |
| To increase my self-confidence                  | _____ (0 to 100 points) |
| To win  | _____ (0 to 100 points) |
| To make friends                                 | _____ (0 to 100 points) |
| For the excitement and challenge of competition | _____ (0 to 100 points) |
| Because my parents asked me to play             | _____ (0 to 100 points) |

**YOUR TOTAL POINTS MUST ADD UP TO**

**100**

# MY REASONS FOR PLAYING BASEBALL

## RANKED BY ORDER OF IMPORTANCE

1. TO HAVE FUN
2. TO IMPROVE MY SKILLS AND LEARN TO PLAY BASEBALL THE RIGHT WAY
3. FOR THE EXCITEMENT AND CHALLENGE OF COMPETITION
4. TO STAY IN SHAPE AND GET EXERCISE
5. TO BE PART OF A TEAM AND LEARN TEAMWORK
6. TO MAKE FRIENDS
7. TO GET TO A HIGHER LEVEL OF COMPETITION, SUCH AS HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS
8. TO WIN
9. TO INCREASE MY SELF-CONFIDENCE
10. TO EARN A COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP
11. BECAUSE MY PARENTS ASKED ME TO PLAY

Note: these survey results are for Minor League players (132 boys total, mostly 4<sup>th</sup> graders).

# MY REASONS FOR PLAYING FOOTBALL

## RANKED BY ORDER OF IMPORTANCE

1. TO HAVE FUN
2. TO IMPROVE MY SKILLS AND LEARN TO PLAY FOOTBALL THE RIGHT WAY
3. TO STAY IN SHAPE AND GET EXERCISE
4. FOR THE EXCITEMENT AND CHALLENGE OF COMPETITION
5. TO WIN
6. TO GET TO A HIGHER LEVEL OF COMPETITION, SUCH AS HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS
7. TO EARN A COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP
8. TO BE PART OF A TEAM AND LEARN TEAMWORK
9. TO MAKE FRIENDS
10. TO INCREASE MY SELF-CONFIDENCE
11. BECAUSE MY PARENTS ASKED ME TO PLAY

Note: these survey results are for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades combined (255 boys total).

# MY REASONS FOR PLAYING BASKETBALL

## RANKED BY ORDER OF IMPORTANCE

1. TO HAVE FUN
2. TO IMPROVE MY SKILLS AND LEARN TO PLAY BASKETBALL THE RIGHT WAY
3. TO STAY IN SHAPE AND GET EXERCISE
4. FOR THE EXCITEMENT AND CHALLENGE OF COMPETITION
5. TO BE PART OF A TEAM AND LEARN TEAMWORK
6. TO MAKE FRIENDS
7. TO GET TO A HIGHER LEVEL OF COMPETITION, SUCH AS HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS
8. TO WIN
9. TO EARN A COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP
10. TO INCREASE MY SELF-CONFIDENCE
11. BECAUSE MY PARENTS ASKED ME TO PLAY

Note: these survey results are for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades combined (295 boys total).



# BOYS BASEBALL, FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL SURVEY RESULTS

