



## ***Challenger Baseball 2012*** ***Bridgewater Community Little League***

Visit our website at  
[coe.jmu.edu/hutchisl](http://coe.jmu.edu/hutchisl)

Dear Parents,

The Challenger baseball program opened in Bridgewater in the spring of 2001. Challenger is a division of Little League Baseball for children ages 5-18 who have physical or mental conditions that prevent safe participation in other baseball programs. Twenty-four athletes from Harrisonburg and Rockingham County participated in our opening season. For most, it was their first opportunity to play baseball in an organized setting and their joy in being able to participate was obvious. The feedback we received from families and players was overwhelmingly positive. Since that time, Challenger has grown; last season there were forty-six players on four teams.

Rules are modified in the Challenger program and the focus is always on having fun while learning the game of baseball. No score is kept, each player bats every inning, and everyone plays the entire game. Each player is assigned a buddy who works to ensure safety and success. A soft baseball is used for all games and practices.

The Challenger season begins in early April and continues through the third week in June (a schedule will soon be available on the website noted above). Games are played once a week at Oakdale Park in Bridgewater and last approximately one hour.

There are two Challenger programs in Rockingham County--Bridgewater and Grottoes. Athletes who live within the Little League boundaries of these two leagues must play in their home program. Those from other areas of the county, the city of Harrisonburg, and surrounding counties are eligible to play in either program. For information on the Grottoes Little League Challenger Division, contact Mike Sutton at [president@gcll.us](mailto:president@gcll.us)

If you have questions or would like registration information for Bridgewater's Challenger Program, contact Philip and Sue Hutchinson (828-3502) or Jack and Becky Martin (879-2380) to discuss whether this division is the proper placement for your child. The registration fee is \$10, payable to *Bridgewater Community Little League*. Registration forms and payment should be mailed to Philip & Sue Hutchinson, 209 Dinkel Avenue, Bridgewater, VA 22812. Players must be registered by February 25 to be included in the uniform order.

Many of our Challenger families share the players' enthusiasm for the games and express joy in seeing their children participate on a team. We look forward to talking with you about the opportunities Challenger may offer your child. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions.

Philip and Sue Hutchinson (828-3502, 568-6800)  
Jack and Becky Martin (879-2380)  
Coordinators, Challenger Division