

LET'S PLAY

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APRIL ISSUE



Merriam-Webster defines a volunteer as “a person who voluntarily undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a service.” While I don’t disagree with that definition, I believe that Mudsock volunteers are so much more than a person who undertakes a service. Our volunteers have huge hearts, an uncommon proclivity to lend their time and an unwavering belief in community-building through youth sports.

Back in November 2024, we held our first annual volunteer appreciation event called “Mudstock” and it was a huge hit. For the first time since the inception of the organization, every league was represented by their volunteers who served in some capacity during the year. We were able to celebrate individual league “Volunteers of the Year” and then we named an overall “Mudsock Youth Athletics Volunteer of the Year.” That person was Jamison Vance, so if you see him in the community, please give him a shoutout for winning that award.

When I was driving home from Mudstock, I kept thinking “How is our community so lucky to have such incredible volunteers?” If you’ve ever read the “History of S.P.O.R.T.S.” by Tom Curry, one of the founding members of our organization, you know some of it has to do with the foresight that the volunteers in our organization, the school district and town had. As we learned from baseball executive Branch Rickey, “Luck is the residue of design.” But even great planning only gets you so far, you still need execution. Fortunately, the residents of the HSE School District, our Mudsock family, step up to volunteer in roles of need year after year. Some roles take our volunteers out of their comfort zones, some roles are the first step on a path to an enriching coaching career and some are the perfect outlet for doing what they love.

I guess what I’m saying is that no matter how many years I’m fortunate enough to serve as Executive Director, my admiration for Mudsock volunteers will never wane. As we enter Volunteer Appreciation week, please join me in thanking the amazing volunteers in our programs. At the Mudsock Youth Athletics office, we do not take for granted the level of excellence that Mudsock volunteers provide the kids in our community.

Sincerely,

Scott Spillman
Executive Director
Mudsock Youth Athletics