

## 2025 - 2026 Board Candidates

Board Candidates	Candidate Biography (if provided)
<b>Brandon Cook</b>	To help do my part in improving the level of play and to give back to my community.
<b>Brian Edwards</b>	I am a local educator, husband and father of two, I recently completed my second year of service on the board as the umpire-in-chief. My son began playing t-ball at Ladera Little and is entering his 4th season this fall. I was a little league coach for seven years, was a graduate assistant coach at USC, and have been umpiring at the high school and little league for the past nine years. Additionally, I am an umpire for District 25, which encompasses Ladera Little League I am currently working on bringing a junior umpire program to Ladera Little League which will positively impact all levels of play.
<b>Briana Balthazar</b>	<p>Hello, my name is Briana Balthazar. I am currently serving on the 2024-2025 Board as the Safety Officer.</p> <p>I hope to continue to serve on the Board as I have spent the majority of my life as a part of the Ladera Little League community.</p> <p>While I didn't play here myself, I literally grew up at Ladera Little League! I've always volunteered here in various ways and I watched my brothers learn baseball and my father coach numerous kids in the baseball program.</p> <p>I have a strong passion for Ladera Little League. Having played softball as a youth and in high school, I understand and appreciate the rewards of playing competitive youth sports. I know personally that while a team may not always win despite their best efforts, competitive sports comes with great opportunities for growth.</p> <p>In summary, I hope to serve on the Ladera Little League board again to help ensure that all players not only gain a proper knowledge of softball and baseball, but also reap and enjoy the rewards and growth that competitive sports can teach them in the areas of self-confidence, teamwork, self-discipline and leadership.</p>
<b>Courtney Taylor</b>	<p>My name is Courtney Taylor and I joined Ladera Little League in 2013 when my oldest son played his first season. My youngest son, just 2 weeks old at our first Opening Day, is now playing in the Junior division. All three of my children played baseball at Ladera LL, with my daughter also participating in softball. While the oldest two have aged out, they remain dedicated league volunteers.</p> <p>I was first elected to the board in 2016 and have proudly served as Secretary, Vice President, softball coordinator, and President. In addition, I've served as team parent and assistant coach for my children's teams. Ladera LL is special, and I've worked tirelessly to uphold its rich history while strengthening and growing the league for the benefit of every member. I hope to continue this service, leaving a positive impact on Ladera LL and providing players with a safe, fun, nurturing environment to learn, grow, and discover the many beneficial facets of baseball and softball. <i>Let's go, Ladera!</i></p>
<b>Danielle Blum</b>	<p>I'm interested in continuing to serve on the Ladera Little League Board, where I've been involved for the past three years as the Softball Commissioner along with two years as the Player Agent (for baseball and softball) and most recently as Volunteer Coordinator. In addition to serving on the board, I've been an active participant on the field coaching my son's teams from Tee ball through majors (now moving to Juniors) and my daughter's teams from Tee ball through Minors.</p> <p>Since returning from COVID, I've focused on rebuilding our softball program. In 2022, we had just one Rookie team. By 2023, we had teams in every division, and in 2024, our 10U team returned to All Stars. This past spring, we fielded both a 10U and 11U All Star teams, with the 11U girls advancing to the State All Star Tournament. I'm proud of the progress and would love to continue growing the division.</p>
<b>David Gantt</b>	I've been playing baseball since I was six years old, continuing through high school and college. Over the years, I've developed a deep understanding of the game and a passion for teaching it to others. What I enjoy most is sharing the mental side of baseball and helping players see how the lessons from the game apply to life beyond the field.
<b>Derek Balthazar</b>	Dedicated team player. Teaches building up young men. Loves his little league responsible there for everyone. Ladera LL.
<b>Derric Taylor</b>	I am a current parent of a Ladrea player, my third to participate. I have an interest in player development and would like to see Ladera represented beyond these fields.
<b>Desobry E. Bowers</b>	<p>Desobry Bowers is a retired Naval Officer and F/A-18 pilot currently flying for UPS Airlines. He has served as the Ladera Little League VP for the last two seasons while concurrently assistant coaching in both minor(White Sox-23 and Yankees-24) and Major (2025 Major League champion Mariners) baseball divisions. His board accomplishments are as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sourced and repaired Ladera LL pitching machine(2023)</li> <li>• Responsible for the planning and purchase of the Jr division artificial pitching mound (Spring 2024)</li> <li>• Responsible for the planning, purchase, and installation of the new Minor field score board (Fall 2024)</li> <li>• Responsible for field condition renewal focused on Minor and Major fields during three seasons, two 11u All-star tournaments and two Little League Intl Jamboree tournaments.</li> <li>• Responsible for the planning, purchase and installation of the new Jr/Softball field score board (Fall 2025 installation)</li> <li>• Two consecutive years responsible for selling and acquiring banner donations and banners for all fields with donations totaling greater than \$10k in two years from local businesses.</li> </ul>
<b>Devaughn Wallace</b>	My name is Devaughn Wallace. I'm a current High School Varsity head coach at Culver City. A ladera Little league alumni who played from 4 years old -15 years old. Have a degree is Sport Psychology. Work on a Masters in Education.
<b>Irving Norwood</b>	I am a father of 4, and both of my sons have played at Ladera Little League. I am an accountant by profession and I love organizing and maintaining all sorts of records and stats. I have been in this community for all my life. I think my participation in the LLL Board is a way of giving back and helping the future of baseball in our community.
<b>Jeff Sanders</b>	<p>Jeff grew up in the south, fishing and playing sports. The love of baseball taught Jeff discipline and patience at a young age. Having played sports all through grade school, high school and college, Jeff saw the impact it had on his and his teammates lives and is a big believer in building confidence in our youth, helping them become productive in life and not be afraid to take the leap and get out there and try something new.</p> <p>Away from baseball, Jeff has had a long career in stunts, stunt coordinating, acting, producing, directing and enjoys spending time with his wife and 2 children.</p>
<b>Larry Hooks</b>	My name is Larry and I have been associated with Ladera Little League for the past 20 years as a Parent Volunteer, a Coach and an Umpire. My youngest Son is currently registered for Fall Ball 2025. Both of My older Sons played at Ladera and I coached both of their teams. I have been working with the Boy Scouts of America for the past 15 years as the Scoutmaster of Troop 1323 right here in South Los Angeles. I am a Veteran of the United States Army and I assist other Veterans with obtaining their Medical Benefits and getting permanent Housing.
<b>Uriel Lezama</b>	Father of 3, construction field