



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cave Spring Merges Competing Little Leagues

ROANOKE - After a history of over 50 years, Cave Spring American Little League and Cave Spring National Little League have merged competing leagues to form a unified Cave Spring Little League.

The discussion came about in September 2020, after members from both leagues motioned to approve merging Cave Spring National Little League and Cave Spring American Little League to form a stronger, more unified Cave Spring Little League.

When asked about the merger, Division 12 District Administrator, Fred Corbett said, "I was impressed with the volunteers that came forward during the discussions of a merger. Both former Leagues were well represented and new ideas were discussed on ways to grow the program."

After several meetings, the motion was voted on and passed on October 5th. The Charter Committee of Little League International approved the merger of both leagues to form one league, operating under one Board of Directors, effective immediately.

"We should be excited about children doing positive things and participating in something we all care about. Baseball teaches sportsmanship, respect, and skills. Youth baseball gives children and parents an opportunity to get outside, meet new friends, and have fun" Fred Corbett said.

There are several, major benefits for the players and parents from both league's merging:

Players will no longer be separated from their Southwest Roanoke County schoolmates based on which league's boundary they live in.

Russell Emory, Board President of Cave Spring Little League, stated "Now you'll get to play with your friends." "We've had kids who go to the same school, but play on a different team. This merger will now allow all of the children in our Cave Spring & Hidden Valley communities to play together."

Player registration will be more streamlined, consolidating different league boundaries into one, larger league boundary covering most portions of Southwest Roanoke County.

“The existing structure was very confusing for parents. Eliminating leagues will eliminate the confusion that has existed for years. Our ability to pool resources between both leagues just makes sense,” President Russell Emory stated.

The merger of leagues will provide a greater, increased player pool to allow more teams, a greater variety of games and schedules, and a larger pool of players to participate in Little League (*after regular season*) Tournament games.

A unified league will also provide local businesses who support local recreation sports in the Cave Spring area greater visibility, more opportunities, and one point of contact.

“We are excited about the increase in quality of both coaching and resources,” Russell said. “For a lot of the kids, they’ll now get to play with their friends - whether you end up at Hidden Valley or end up at Cave Spring, we are all playing Little League together!” “I want people to say we are Cave Spring Little League, we are in this together.”

To be eligible to play in Cave Spring Little League, players must reside in, or attend a private or public school within the league boundaries. Players who do not reside in the boundaries, but attend a private school within our boundaries must purchase a Non-Resident Participation Pass from Roanoke County Parks, Recreation and Tourism

About Cave Spring Little League:

Cave Spring Little League is an inclusive, non-profit organization of players, families, and volunteers that offers recreational baseball programs for youth, ages four to sixteen, in southwest Roanoke County. Cave Spring Little League is a chartered league of Little League International®, a non-profit organization, founded in 1939, Little League® is the world’s largest organized youth sports program, with approximately two million players and one million adult volunteers in every U.S. state and more than 80 other countries.

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