

Getting People Involved

The first thing to remember when forming an AAU sports program is . . . everything becomes easier when the workload is shared with others. Securing help to assist with the responsibilities of starting and maintaining a successful program should be your first priority. Here are a few suggestions regarding getting started:

Volunteer Payment

When you're looking for individuals to assist with your program, you should understand that payment is essential to the volunteer process. Not in the terms of financial assistance, although that is always welcomed, but in the creation of an environment rich in personal recognition. The more you make people feel good about being involved by your words and actions, the more they will contribute. "The more you give, the more you receive" has never been more true.

Contact The Parents

The greatest human resource any program has are the parents of the athletes. Simply by asking for help you will have access to a large pool of willing and enthusiastic volunteers. Parents make great assistant coaches, treasurers, secretaries, or really anything you ask them to be. Believe it or not the parents you want to solicit first are the ones whose schedules are so full they don't have the time! You need them for exactly that reason . . . they don't have the time. Successful people, achievers, never have the time. Yet they find enough each day to continue to dream, plan and do. Your challenge will be getting them to readjust their priority list to include your program. Remind them what they received as a youngster from that special someone who was willing to give back, that should do it.

continued on page 9



Additional Human Resources

Many times teachers and coaches from the various schools in your community will be interested in becoming involved in your program. High School booster clubs are also attracted to youth sport groups for several reasons, one of which is the feeder system benefit. Civic organizations such as the local YMCA or YWCA, Boys and Girls Clubs are also potential resources you might try.

Get On-Line

One of the AAU's National Sponsors is active.com. As soon as you sign up as an AAU Club, this entitles you to www.ezteam.com/aa Website Internet page. One of the many features of signing-up for this free service is the ability to post practice schedules, communicate with your athletes and manage your club by way the world wide web.



Did You Know...

with the help of active.com, the AAU in 2002 was able to create the premier web-based communications and management system in amateur sports. The secure, active.com online community is free for our members to use. The website allow you to get connected with your team, coaches, leagues, sports administrators, AAU Associations, and the AAU National Office with just a few simple steps. To sign onto the AAU/active.com online community visit www.eteamz.com/aa and click the join now button.