

SYSA committed to children, neighbors

The board of directors of the nonprofit Spokane Youth Sports Association would like to send a message to the entire Spokane community as we work to raise money to build the Glenrose sports project on the South Hill.

For 52 years, SYSA has been involved with, or has led the way, in promoting youth sports. Our philosophy is one that embodies teaching and reinforcing leadership through sports. In a time when so many sports programs have become about the "elite" or winning-only experience, SYSA has remained committed to providing an opportunity for all student-athletes to participate - no matter the level of skill or experience.

SYSA currently serves over 10,000 kids annually by providing year-round, affordable, safe and fun opportunities for our young participants to play a sport, learn the value of sportsmanship, develop leadership skills, instill a healthy lifestyle, and participate as members of a team. In addition, we organize over 1,000 adult volunteers on a yearly basis as coaches, committee and board members, and community helpers.

More than likely most sports families in Spokane either had a child or know of someone who has participated in one of our programs. Spokane is a great sports community as evident in all the activities we host. Over time, it has become very apparent that while the support for youth sports in Spokane is at the highest level, unfortunately our area lacks the necessary facilities and sports infrastructure to meet the ever-growing demand. SYSA is excited to be a leader, as are many nonprofits in the community, in ensuring that our children (in our case through sports) have the opportunities to succeed in life.

The proposed sports facility at the Glenrose location will be one that helps to meet this growing demand. As we have communicated in meetings with the neighborhood leadership, we are committed to being great neighbors as the project does indeed move forward. We understand that in initial planning phases there is often concern about how projects such as ours will impact others. We are very thankful for the tremendous donation of the property and we look forward to carrying on a half-century tradition of providing youth sports opportunities for Spokane children.

Jeff Geldien, president
SYSA board of directors