

TOPSOCCER Buddies Needed

Sign Up To Be A Buddy

If you are a youth soccer player, love soccer, want to give something back to the game, and want to help someone with special needs, TOPSoccer has a place for you. Buddies provide support, guidance, and a play partner to the TOPSoccer player. Buddies do not have to be a travel or school player – all a prospective buddy needs is compassion for others and love of the game. (If you are interested in being a buddy, please e-mail Buddy Recruiting Coordinator Holly Angel at hangel@richmondkickers.com and include your name, age and an email where we can send notices of sessions to. Here is some more information on the program.

About Richmond TOPSoccer

Local soccer clubs are again joining with Richmond Kickers Soccer Club to host TOPSoccer, a program geared specifically to introducing soccer to children with special needs. TOPSoccer is an outreach effort under the auspices of United States Youth Soccer (USYS) and the Virginia Youth Soccer Association (VYSA).

The program began in this area in Spring of 2006, marking the first time TOPSoccer was offered in the Richmond area and making it the 19th such program to be introduced in Virginia. It is the only program in the country run as a cooperative effort by ALL of the soccer clubs in the area. The following clubs participate: Ashland Youth Soccer League, Chesterfield United Soccer Club, FC Richmond Soccer Club, Midlothian Youth Soccer League, Richmond Kickers Youth Soccer Club, and Richmond Strikers Soccer Club.

TOPSoccer teams up youth soccer players with Richmond area special needs children. Designed to enrich the lives of children with special needs through the game of soccer, TOPSoccer is open to any boy or girl, ages 4-19, who has a mental or physical disability.

The youth soccer players – called “buddies” help the TOPSoccer athletes learn the game of soccer, or just enjoy moments of physical activity, through a variety of soccer-themed activities and games, appropriate to the age and ability of players.

Each player is matched with a local youth player “buddy” or buddies who assist volunteer coaches and the TOPSoccer athletes-Other volunteers provide special needs expertise. Parents are a part of the program and are required to remain on site throughout the sessions.

2 sessions each year – Spring and Fall for 6 weeks each weather permitting.
Saturdays – 4:30 – 5:30 at Hensley for athletes and buddies arrive at 4:00 to set up and get instructions.

All sessions will be at Hensley Soccer Park at , 13851 W. Hensley Road, Midlothian, VA 23112.

Directions to Hensley Soccer Park:

Take Hull Street Road West (route 360) to N. Spring Run Road. There is a traffic light at Merchant's Tire on your left and a Wawa on your right. Turn left at the light onto N. Spring Run Road. Take N. Spring Run Road 2 miles to Spring Run Elementary School on your right. This is a 4-way stop intersection. Turn Right onto Springford Parkway. Travel 1.4 miles on Springford Parkway. Turn Left onto W. Hensley Road after passing Brandy Oaks. Travel 0.1 miles to the first Hensley Soccer Complex entrance on the left for fields 4-9.

Questions

If you have questions, please contact Holly Angel hangel@richmondkickers.com or Keith Walker, TOPSoccer Director, at akwalke@yahoo.com