

Here is a list of some frequently asked questions each year.

Q: What equipment does my child need?

A: A glove, a pair of shorts or baseball pants, and a pair of comfortable closed-toed shoes for the games. A bat is optional. But the kids usually like having their own bat. It is not required.

Q: When do we get the shirt and hat?

A: By the first game. The turnaround time varies every year.

Q: Can parents order a shirt?

A: Yes. If any family members want shirt that matches or resembles the team, you can order them at George's Sporting Goods. You will need to check with them on pricing and make any necessary arrangements to place the order and to pick it up.

Q: How long do the games last?

A: Each game is 2 innings. Each team bats twice and every child bats. We do not record outs. Every child gets to run the bases. We typically do one base at a time. It is at the coach's discretion. With a range of ages from 3-6 years old on the team, I consider it a victory if every child has mastered the order to run the bases by the last game. All of that to say, I have games last 30 minutes and I have had games last just past an hour.

Q: How do the parents help during the game?

A: This is vital! With just over 15 3–6-year-old children (one of which is my child) on the team, coaching is a team sport. During the game I ask that each child have at one parent or adult relative with them on the field and around the bench. When we bat, I need a parent at each base to help guide the children from base to base. I will be helping each batter at the tee and my wife is usually helping keep the batting order moving. For those that have not seen our t- ball program, it is not traditional baseball. There are no bench players. Each child is in the field. We want everyone to participate and have fun. They will many more years to be ultra-competitive in life. With that many kids out there out at one time, it can be like herding cats. It is fun for them and me. My goal is that they enjoy themselves being a little kid and stay safe.

Q: What are the raffle tickets about?

A: Sertoma of Laurel is a non-profit service organization that raises money for LOCAL speech and hearing needs. We partner with the ENT of Laurel to provide free or reduced

cost hearing aids to those that cannot afford them. We provide scholarships to the local high schools. We have invested over \$50,000 to looping technology in the performing art centers in the 3 county schools, LHS auditorium, and Laurel Little Theatre. This technology allows those with hearing aids to be able to tune in wirelessly to venue's audio system and enjoy the performance without any feedback and outside interference. A true blessing if you are trying to hear a child or grandchild perform on stage. So, that is the long answer. The bulk of the fundraising from t ball comes from raffle ticket sales. The registration and sponsorship cover the uniforms, rental of the Magnolia Center, insurance, and trophies.

Q: When is the raffle ticket money due?

A: Short answer; when you finish selling your books, turn it in. After you sell the first two books, you can request more. All money and left-over tickets must be turned in before the last game. For accounting purposes, we do need any unsold tickets returned. We do accept checks for the ticket sales. Often, we will have someone buy an entire book, or more, with a check. This happens a lot with business owners. However, I do ask that you turn in any checks quickly. Especially if you are not as familiar with the person. Sounds odd, but it happens. Every year we have a couple checks that we run into issues with, and we also want to be respectful of those that wrote the check and not wait too long to deposit the check.