

A stylized graphic of the American flag, featuring a blue field with white stars and red and white stripes, rendered in a painterly, brushstroke style. The flag is positioned diagonally across the top left of the image.

BECOME A PART OF TEAM USA

St. Louis Boys Baseball Association (SLBBA)

Tokyo, Japan

July 20 – 30, 2025

A decorative graphic featuring a stylized American flag with red and white stripes and white stars on a blue background, positioned in the top-left and bottom-right corners of the slide.

WHAT IS THE ST. LOUIS BOYS BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (SLBBA)?

- Since 1983, the mission of St. Louis Boys Baseball Association (SLBBA), a Missouri not-for-profit organization, is to provide unique and extraordinary athletic and cultural experiences for 12- to 15-year-old baseball players in the greater St. Louis area.
- SLBBA forms USA National teams at the ages of 12u and 15u. Participants are chosen based on their superior baseball skill as well as exhibit qualities of sportsmanship, character, and maturity.
- Members of the USA National team will have the international experience of a lifetime as they travel to Japan for approximately 10 days playing baseball, living with a Japanese family and immersing themselves in the Japanese culture.
- Upon returning from Japan, they will participate in another 10 days of baseball and fun activities in St. Louis, while sharing the American culture and their home with 2 or more international players.

A graphic of the American flag, featuring a blue field with white stars in the upper left and red and white stripes, is positioned in the top-left corner of the slide.

WHAT IS THE ST. LOUIS BOYS BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (SLBBA)?

Team USA

- Patty Wussow – 314.409.6512
- Manda Johnson – 314.809.0373
- Dionna Helfers – 314.422.4141
- Rodney Eldridge (12U) – 314.791.7321
- Sherron Rives (12U) – 314.369.3842
- Rusty Wood (15U) – 636.544.3633

International Games

- Amy Walka
- Patty Wussow
- Sheri O'Brien
- Dionna Helfers
- Jason Walka
- Joe Bartmess
- Merrell Hansen
- Brittany Hanson
- Andrew O'Brien
- Judy Herbst

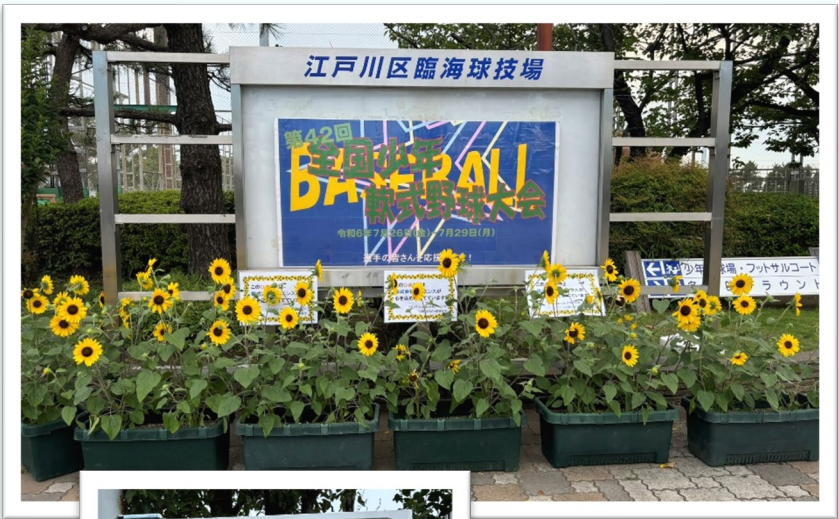
A decorative graphic featuring a stylized American flag with red and white stripes and white stars on a blue background, positioned in the top-left and bottom-right corners of the slide.

WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL BOYS BASEBALL NANKYU ASSOCIATION (IBA)?

- IBA-Boys Inc. is the Association approved by the Educational & Scientific Department of Japan, with the main objective being to promote Nanshiki baseball throughout the world. The organization has the nationwide network from Hokkaido to Okinawa with over 3,000 registered teams in the under 12 divisions, and 500 registered teams in the under 16 divisions.
- Currently, 39 overseas countries and 1 region are registered via these organizations. More so, the IBA-Boys also hosts the renowned World Championship in Tokyo every year. This year, 2025, will mark the 42nd anniversary for the under 12U division and the 21st anniversary for the under 15U division.
- The International Boys Baseball Nanyuka Association (IBA) and the St. Louis Boys Baseball Association (SLBBA), the American Baseball Organization, have been doing the International Games exchange since 1983. The IBA has brought teams to West St. Louis County baseball associations including: Ballwin Athletic Association, Manchester Athletic Association, Ellisville Athletic Association, Fenton Athletic Association and Pond Athletic Association, located in Wildwood, MO. Pond Athletic Association is the current venue and has hosted the games since 2016.

NAKYU WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

- Nankyu World Championship Baseball Tournament typically takes place the last 10 days of July, in or around the city of Tokyo.
- 10-16 countries are represented.
- Team USA players live with a Japanese family during the trip.
- Tournament is played with a kenko ball.
- Players exchange pins or small gifts before or after each game.
- Parents may travel to Japan with the team, but they will have separate accommodations and should not expect to see their players except at the ball fields.



SAMPLE ITINERARY IN JAPAN

July 20 – 30, 2025

- Day 1 – Depart St. Louis
- Day 2 – Arrive & Meet Host Family
- Day 3 – Enjoy Japan with Host Family
- Day 4 - Enjoy Japan with Host Family
- Day 5 – Practice/Play Baseball
- Day 6 – Practice/Opening Ceremony
- Day 7 – Play Baseball
- Day 8 – Play Baseball / Attend a Pro Baseball Game
- Day 9 – Play Baseball
- Day 10 – Shopping / Depart / Arrive Home



A stylized graphic of the American flag, featuring a blue field with white stars in the upper left and red and white stripes, rendered in a painterly, brushstroke style. The graphic is positioned in the top left corner, extending diagonally across the top of the slide.

THE HOME STAY EXPERIENCE

The boys have the most wonderful experience living with a Japanese family for all or a portion of the trip to Japan. They will cherish these memories for the rest of their life!

They are exposed to experiences and cultural norms that expand their horizons, educate them and help them to become more independent.

Being a part of Team USA gives your child the opportunity to learn, grow and play baseball in a safe environment.

A graphic of the American flag, featuring the stars and stripes, is positioned in the top-left corner of the slide.

TRYING OUT FOR TEAM USA

- Eligible players will still be 12 or 15 years old prior to September 1, 2025.
- Register online.
<https://forms.gle/cMExuq2gLd7GyfuQ9>
- A parent information meeting and Q&A session will take place during the player tryout.
- Your family must be willing to homestay a minimum of 2 international players during the St. Louis International Games August 1-10th, 2025.

TRYING OUT FOR TEAM USA

SLBBA TEAM USA

12U & 15U NATIONAL TEAM TRYOUTS



12U Field #3 @ 7:30pm
15U Field #1 @ 7:30pm
Pond Athletic Association
1725 Pond Road
Wildwood, MO 63038



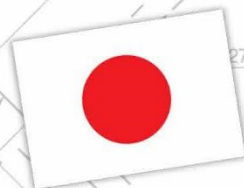
12U Field #3 @ 6:00pm
15U Field #3 @ 7:30pm
Pond Athletic Association
1725 Pond Road
Wildwood, MO 63038



12U Field #1 @ 6:00pm
15U Field #1 @ 7:30pm
Valley Park Athletic Association
200 Saint Louis Avenue
Valley Park, MO 63088



12U Field #4 @ 6:00pm
15U Field #1 @ 6:00pm
Pond Athletic Association
1725 Pond Road
Wildwood, MO 63038



CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

A decorative graphic of the American flag, featuring red and white stripes and white stars on a blue background, is positioned in the top-left corner of the slide.

HOW MUCH DOES TEAM USA COST?

- The St. Louis Boys Baseball Association (SLBBA) engages in various fundraising activities for the purpose of sending two (2) boys baseball teams per year (12U and 15U ages) to the Nankyu World Championship Baseball Tournament, typically held in or around Tokyo, Japan.
- The goal for SLBBA is to fundraise \$90,000 to send all 24 players, 4 coaches and 1 administrative representative to Japan.
- Fundraising includes the seeking of donations by individuals, corporate donors and sponsors, as well as numerous activities in cooperation with local and national entities, including restaurants and vendors. All money raised by these fundraising activities goes directly towards the cost of sending teams to the Nankyu Baseball World Championships, the direct cost of fundraising, and the costs associated with the hosting of families in the United States.
- If you choose not to fundraise, the cost per player is approximately \$3000.00.

A stylized graphic of the American flag, featuring red and white stripes and white stars on a blue background, positioned in the top-left and bottom-right corners of the slide.

COST BREAKDOWN

⚾ Uniforms	\$	300.00
⚾ Player Entry Fee	\$	475.00
⚾ Non-Refundable Travel Agent Fee	\$	125.00
⚾ Roundtrip Flight	\$	2100.00
		<hr/>
		\$ 3000.00
<i>Additional Spending Money (for player)</i>	\$	200.00

UNIFORMS

- (1) White button-down jersey and pant
- (1) Grey button-down jersey and pant
- (1) Blue Dri-fit under shirt/practice jersey
- (1) Red Dri-fit under shirt/practice jersey
- (1) Navy Sock
- (1) Navy Belt
- (1) Team USA Hat

\$300.00



PLAYER ENTRY FEE



- Entry fee for the tournament
- Transportation to/from airport in Tokyo
- Transportation to/from the ball fields and activities
- Ticket to Professional Baseball Game
- Group lunches & dinners
- Hotel (if needed)

\$475.00

TRAVEL AGENT FEE

- Negotiates group airline rate
- Books flights & checks in travelers
- Helps family book travel and hotel, if needed
- Gets quotes for trip insurance, if needed
- Rebooks flights in case of world events
- Checks in with travelers upon arrival and departure
- Is available by phone, text and email to answer any questions
- Having the travel agent representing the team and families is priceless!

\$125.00 per traveler





TRAVEL AGENT

Melanie Nesser

Travel advisor with Sky High Travel

melanie@shtravelteam.com

314-225-5405

10805 Sunset Hills Office Dr., Suite 202

St. Louis, MO 63127



A stylized graphic of the American flag, featuring red and white stripes and white stars on a blue background, positioned in the top-left corner of the slide.

ROUND TRIP FLIGHT

- Round trip economy flight
- The shortest, most affordable price per ticket
- Trip insurance (new for 2025)
- Ensures all kids are on the same flight and seated together
- Group check-in
- Price for 5 SLBBA coaches and staff airfare is divided equally between the 24 players (new for 2025)

\$2100.00

A stylized graphic of the American flag, featuring red and white stripes and white stars on a blue background, positioned in the top-left corner of the slide.

FUNDRAISING

- Events planned for the 2025 fundraising campaign are:
 - Cash Raffle (Dec)
 - Winter Baseball & Softball Camp
 - Bowling Night (January 17 @ West County Lanes)
 - Trivia night (March 29)
 - 1st Annual Wood Bat Classic (April 25-27)
- Participation in the fundraising process is required: you can contribute by soliciting donations, sponsorships and attending the event(s) and inviting other guests.
- Cost to “buy-out” of fundraising is **\$3000.00**.

A stylized graphic of the American flag, featuring red and white stripes and white stars on a blue background, positioned in the top-left corner of the slide.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- If your player is invited to represent TeamUSA you will receive a phone call or email from one of the coaches by November 1st (or sooner).
- A parent meeting will be held **Wednesday, November 6th**
 - Overview of the program + home stay
 - Presentation from the travel agent, \$125 agent fee due
 - Fundraising
 - Q&A