



**To: Participating Team**

**Operation Teammate:**

Operation Teammate, founded in 2015, provides an opportunity for athletic organizations to welcome children (ages 5-18) of Military and First Responders as honorary teammates during times of separation (i.e. deployments/training/disaster relief). These children are our primary focus and our aim is to arrange memorable sporting experiences to help them and their families through those difficult times. Operation Teammate events also encourage children to become involved in their local communities and guides them to understand that building a community is a team effort.

**Proposal to Teams:**

Operation Teammate pursues opportunities to partner with athletic organizations to create a memorable sporting experience between our children and the teams. This enables Operation Teammate to provide an opportunity to a select group of U.S. Military and First Responder children to attend a game unique to them. This could include meet & greet time prior to a scheduled game, pre/post game interactions, and picture/autograph opportunities at the appropriate times. Also, this could be followed up by the execution of Pen Pal corresponding between select players and children that have parents away from home on duty. Our organizational goals align with similar programs such as the NFL's "Salute to Service" initiative, and while incorporating the Operation Teammate mission with like minded programs, it would establish that bridge between our families and various teams, resulting in Impactful Athlete Interactions!

**How does Operation Teammate reach our goals?**

**\*\*\* Operation Teammate is the ONLY program that supports Military & First Responder families in this manner \*\*\***

The Augusta, GA City Council voted and granted Operation Teammate their Seal of Approval; this is in addition to recognizing the events in support of the 20,000 Joint Service military/civilian members of Fort Gordon in Augusta, GA.

There are nearly 3 million U.S. Military and First Responder families across the nation; at any given time, 20% of those parents are away from home on duty. Operation Teammate events are bonding experiences for families and promote a positive lifestyle that encourages increased communication between the children and their deployed parent(s).

More than three hundred U.S. Military and First Responder children have attended an Operation Teammate event. Additionally, over 100,000 community members have been exposed to Operation Teammate, with another 1 million on-line users being introduced to the Operation Teammate mission.

Based on parental testimonies, as a result of Operation Teammate sporting experiences, their children's self-confidence increases and they engage more with the at home parent. "Our girls are always excited when they attend an Operation Teammate event; when the athletes interact with Operation Teammate, it shows great appreciation to all of the children and sets a terrific example." D. Corman, parent & USAF

**Areas of Impact:**

One of our most recent events was with the University of Georgia football team. Operation Teammate accompanied a group of children and their parents to the college, watched an official practice, and interacted with the football players. The entire team was excited to meet with the kids and welcomed them with open arms. Also, Operation Teammate has conducted multiple events with the National Basketball Association and the Minor League Baseball communities.

In fact, athletes continue to be humbled by what these impressive children have to go through as they grow up in a Military or First Responder community; it really drives home the importance of giving back. \*While walking back to their car after an event, one of the kids even stated, "If I work hard like them, I could also be at a college like that one day".

**Organizational support:**

Operation Teammate desires to broaden our footprint throughout our Nation's communities while working with a variety of organizations. We request opportunities to work with teams and players to further show that appreciation to the children of our U.S. Military and First Responders going through extraordinary family separations. Operation Teammate is open to a variety of avenues for the 2017 - 2018 seasons. This includes, but not limited to Regular Season/Playoff games, and any other mentoring opportunities that are agreed upon between Operation Teammate and the sporting organization.

Respectfully,

**Timothy D. Montjoy, Founder (Air Force Sergeants Association's, Chapter 377, Volunteer Person of the Year)**

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