

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Events](#) | [Elected Officials](#) | [Departments](#) | [Online Services](#) | [About Taylor](#) | [Contact](#)

JUNIOR LEAGUE WORLD SERIES OPENING CEREMONIES TONIGHT AT HERITAGE PARK; GAMES START SATURDAY

TAYLOR, MICHIGAN – The 2014 Junior League Baseball World Series gets under way this weekend at Taylor's Heritage Park.

Opening ceremonies of the 34th annual World Series for the best teams of 13- and 14-year-old players from around the globe are at 8 p.m. Friday, August 8. Games get under way at 11 a.m. Saturday, August 9.

Everyone is welcome. Admission to opening ceremonies is free. Admission to games is just \$5 per carload per day or \$10 per carload for the entire week. Prices include parking. Heritage Park is located at 12111 Pardee Road.

During opening ceremonies, teams will parade around World Series Field with their state or national flags as their anthems are played. Dignitaries will make speeches. There will be a special ceremonial first pitch.

A special attraction will be the honoring of the Taylor baseball team that played in this year's Intermediate 50/70 World Series in Livermore, California. The night will conclude with fireworks, funded by Taylor Ford, which is relocating to 13500 Telegraph Road.

The World Series will be dedicated to the late Steve Gerick, a longtime member of the series scorekeeping crew who passed away in July.

The opening day of games is Saturday and the World Series continues through Saturday, August 16.

The 10 teams are divided into two pools: International and USA. Round-robin pool games are scheduled for 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. each day through Wednesday at World Series Field.

The International championship game is scheduled for 5 p.m. Thursday, followed by the USA title game at 8 p.m.

Thursday's winners play at 2 p.m. Saturday. The championship game will be broadcast live on ESPN3 and www.go.ESPN.com.

Games throughout the week will be broadcast via streaming video on the website www.vaughnlive.tv/jlws.

The five USA teams qualified this past week by winning regional tournaments through the country. All 10 teams began arriving Thursday. Opening ceremonies were scheduled for Friday.

The World Series started a day earlier this year. Friday, August 15, is on the schedule as an "open day" in case makeup games are needed due to rain earlier in the week.

The Junior League World Series is one of nine World Series sanctioned by Little League International. The Taylor South Little League has hosted the series since its inception in 1981.

The Junior League series is the older brother of the famous Little League World Series, for 12-year-olds, which is celebrating its 75th year in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

"I invite everyone near and far to join us for another amazing year of World Series baseball," said founder and Director Greg Bzura. "This is history in the making."

Each of the teams arrived in Taylor as champions. Here is brief information on each of the squads competing to become world champion:

- Midland Northeast/Fraternal Northwest Little League from Midland, Michigan – Midland is the first Michigan team since 1991 to play in the JLWS. After winning the Junior League state championship, Midland went 6-0 in the USA Central Region in Fort Wayne, Indiana, outscoring opponents 82-11 throughout the week. Team Michigan had wins over the state champs from Kentucky, Minnesota, Illinois, Missouri, Indiana in the semifinals and West Bend, Wisconsin, 10-2, in the regional championship game. This is the third time that a team from Midland is playing in the JLWS.
- Newark National Little League from Newark, Delaware – Newark is the first team from Delaware to play in the Junior League World Series in 30 years. After winning the state championship, Newark went 5-0 to win the USA East Region in Freehold Township, New Jersey. Newark defeated the state champions of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts and Maryland twice, including a wild 16-12 contest for the regional championship. By the way, teams from Delaware played three straight years in the JLWS, which began in 1981. The Seaford and Nanticoke Leagues (both from Seaford) and the Brandywine Little League from Wilmington played in the series in 1982, 1983 and 1984, respectively.
- Rutherfordton Little League from Rutherfordton, North Carolina – Rutherfordton has become the first team from North Carolina to play in the Junior League World Series. North Carolina is the 30th state to be represented in the international tournament for the best teams of 13- and 14-year-old ballplayers. After winning the state championship, Rutherfordton swept five games to win the USA Southeast Region in Greenville, South Carolina. Team North Carolina defeated the state champions of Georgia, Florida, West Virginia, Tennessee in the semifinals and Florida again in the title game, 7-0.
- Oil Belt Little League from Corpus Christi, Texas – For the second time in three years, the Oil Belt Little League is playing in the Junior League World Series. After winning the Texas West state tournament, Oil Belt won the USA Southwest Region in Albuquerque, New Mexico, winning all four of its games. Victories came over the state champions of Louisiana and Texas East (Houston), plus the host team from Albuquerque. In an all-Texas rematch with Houston for the championship, Oil Belt overcame a 13-2 deficit in the bottom of the sixth inning, scoring seven runs in the sixth and six more in the seventh to win a 15-14 thriller. The Southwest Region was created in 2002. In its 13 years of existence, the region has been won by teams from Texas 10 times. Before that, Texas was part of the South Region, winning that six times – for a total of 16 appearances in the 34-year Junior League World Series.
- Manhattan/Hermosa Beach Little League from Manhattan/Hermosa Beach, California – This is the second time in three years that players from Manhattan Beach have qualified for the Junior League World Series. After winning the Southern California state championship, the all-stars captured the 11-team USA West Region in Vancouver, Washington, with a 6-0 record. They defeated state champs from Washington, Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Northern California (Pleasanton)

and Arizona again in the finals, 16-4. They outscored their opponents 76-25 throughout the week. Teams from California have played 17 times in the JLWS – exactly half the 34 years of the World Series' existence.

- Chung Shan Junior High School from Tai Chung, Chinese Taipei – Tai Chung became the fifth team in a row from Chinese Taipei to win the Asia-Pacific Region and qualify for the Junior League World Series. In fact, the Shing-Ming Junior Little League from Taoyuan is the defending world champion. The eight-nation regional was held in the Philippines. Tai Chung defeated the national champions of Hong Kong, Qatar and Indonesia in pool play, Guam in the semifinals and Hong Kong again in the finals, 7-0. Chung Shan outscored opponents 49-3 during the five games.

- South Moravia Little League from Brno, Czech Republic – Returning to the Junior League World Series for the second straight year, the Brno all-stars won the 10-team Europe-Africa regional tournament held in Kutno, Poland. The Czechs went undefeated, beating the national champions of Lithuania, the Netherlands, Austria and Italy in pool play; an American military team based in Germany in the quarterfinals; Hessen, Germany in the semifinals; and the United Kingdom, 12-5, in the championship game. Brno outscored opponents 91-23 over the seven games.

- Pariba Little League from Willemstad, Curacao – Pariba won the Latin America Region and will return for the second straight year to play in the Junior League World Series. The national champions of Curacao went undefeated (6-0) during the 10-team tournament played in Yabucoa, Puerto Rico. Curacao defeated the national champs of Guatemala, Costa Rica, (Manati) Puerto Rico and Nicaragua in pool play; Panama in the semifinals; and Puerto Rico in a championship game rematch. The champions outscored their rivals 70-16 during the week.

- Felix Arce from Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico – Mexicali won the Mexican national championship to qualify for the League World Series. Mexico receives an automatic berth in the JLWS, alternating with the national champion of Puerto Rico, due to the popularity of baseball in both nations. Team Mexico defeated Guaymas, Sonora, 10-0, in the championship game. A team from Mexicali played in the World Series in 1988, going 4-0 and winning the world championship. This is the 21st year that a team from Mexico is playing in the JLWS.

- North Regina Little League from Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada – The North Regina all-stars are the third team from the province of Saskatchewan to play in the Junior League World Series, joining Moose Jaw, which played in 2004. In the Canadian national tournament in Lethbridge, Alberta, North Regina lost its first two games of the week – including a 15-5 defeat to the British Columbia provincial champions from the famed Surrey Little League from Whalley. Team Saskatchewan then rallied to win six straight, including a stunning 9-3 victory over B.C. for the national championship.

Here is the schedule of games:

Saturday, August 9

California vs. North Carolina, 11 a.m.
Curacao vs. Mexico, 2 p.m.
Texas vs. Michigan, 5 p.m.
Canada vs. Czech Republic, 8 p.m.

Sunday, August 10

Delaware vs. Texas, 11 a.m.
Czech Republic vs. Chinese Taipei, 2 p.m.
Canada vs. Mexico, 5 p.m.
North Carolina vs. Michigan, 8 p.m.

Monday, August 11

Curacao vs. Canada, 11 a.m.
North Carolina vs. Texas, 2 p.m.
Mexico vs. Chinese Taipei, 5 p.m.
California vs. Delaware, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, August 12

Mexico vs. Czech Republic, 11 a.m.
California vs. Michigan, 2 p.m.
North Carolina vs. Delaware, 5 p.m.
Chinese Taipei vs. Curacao, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, August 13

Delaware vs. Michigan, 11 a.m.
Czech Republic vs. Curacao, 2 p.m.
Canada vs. Chinese Taipei, 5 p.m.
Texas vs. California, 8 p.m.

Thursday, August 14

International Championship Game, 5 p.m.
USA Championship Game, 8 p.m.

Friday, August 15

Open day. Events will be determined.

August 16

World Championship Game, 2 p.m.
Home Run Derby, TBD

For more information on the JLWS, visit www.cityoftaylor.com/worldseries and "like" the World Series Facebook page: www.facebook.com/juniorleagueworldseries.

