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Umpires selected for 33rd annual Junior League Baseball World Series in Taylor Michigan

TAYLOR, MICHIGAN – Fifteen umpires – all volunteers – have been selected to call balls and strikes during the 33rd annual Junior League Baseball World Series in Taylor, Michigan.

The World Series features the best teams of 13- and 14-year-old players from around the world. The 2013 series is scheduled for August 11-17 at Taylor's Heritage Park.

This year's umpire crew features returning Director of Umpires George Glick of Fort Wayne, Indiana; Assistant Director Orland King of Kenton, Ohio; and Greg King, also of Kenton.

The other 12 umpires are Eric Black of Pomona, New York; Giovanni Antonio Boscan-Martinez of San Francisco Estado Zuila, Venezuela; Jeffrey Shane Davis of Placerville, California; John Deisbeck, of Peru, Illinois; Scott Goodman of Lake Forest, California; Jaime Ledesma of Lapryor, Texas; Gilbert Mayfield of Tococa, Georgia; Richard Ochs of Vienna, Virginia; Joseph Ouellette of Brewster, Maine; Dale Rader of Elkhart, Indiana; Jason Fred Ruyan of Lakewood, Colorado; and John Valverde of the Ramstein Air Base in Germany.

Umpires are selected for a World Series after going through a lengthy and stringent selection process. Appointment as a member of the umpiring crew for a World Series is the highest honor Little League Baseball and Softball can bestow on an umpire, and selection means that these umpires have reached the highest level of proficiency and are considered among the best in the world.

The process for selection to work a World Series starts with a nomination from a District Administrator to the regional office. The regional office, along with the region's Umpire-In-Chief, considers all umpires nominated before selecting those who most closely meet the criteria for selection.

All umpires hoping to make it to a World Series must have recently worked one of the Regional Tournaments in the same Little League division as the World Series they are being considered to officiate. Regional Tournament experience at other divisions is also considered when making the appointment.

An umpire is eligible to be selected for a World Series assignment once every four years. Each year, thousands of umpires officiate Little League games around the world, with most not receiving any pay for their time. Umpires who are selected to work a World Series are not reimbursed for their travel expenses. But, just like for the player and coaches, umpires who make a World Series come away with lifelong memories.

The Junior League Baseball World Series was founded in Taylor in 1981 and has been played at Heritage Park ever since. The series features 10 teams: five regional champions from the United States and five international champions. The winners of the USA and International pools compete for the world championship.

Like the players, the umpires have come from all parts of the world: 33 states in the United States and 17 international locations.

The Junior League World Series is considered the "older brother" of the famous Little League World Series for 12-year-olds played in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

For more information, visit the website www.cityoftaylor.com/worldseries. To sponsor the World Series, call Director Greg Bzura at (734) 306-3113. Also, follow the World Series all week on Facebook at www.facebook.com/juniorleagueworldseries.

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