

What is a Sports Equipment Recycle Program?

An opportunity for community members to have access to used equipment/gear for programs in your community.

This information was provided by Scott Segal; Parks & Recreation in Poland, Maine. We established our sports recycle program in 2004 and it is one my favorite and proudest things to be involved in! If I can help you get a program started, please feel free to reach out; ssegal@polandtownoffice.org or cell (207) 838-8632

Why offer a Sports Equipment Recycle Program?

As we all know sports can be expensive. From a community member perspective, the decision on whether to participate might hinge on the overall cost of the program, which includes all of the equipment and gear that their children would need to participate.

Each sport typically includes a registration fee/possibly a fundraiser and then the following;

Baseball: glove, cleats, helmet, catchers equipment

Softball: glove, cleats, helmet, face mask, catcher's equipment

Soccer, soccer ball, shin guard and cleats;

Basketball sneakers,

Hockey: Stick, Helmet, Skates, Padding, goalie gear

Field Hockey; Stick, goggles, and cleats

Football: Shoulder pads, helmet, cleats, etc...

Flag Football: Cleats

Lacrosse: Stick, head gear, cleats, goalie equipment

Cheerleading: Sneakers

Other; Skis, Mountain Bikes, golf clubs, ice skates, snow shoes, rollerblades, skateboards, scooters, Tennis, Disc Golf, Fishing, Running, Volleyball, Pickle ball, Track & Field, etc..

What if your department could be the hero? What if you offered a small space to gather used equipment/gear and offered it to your community?

What are the benefits?

-You would be providing a service to your community that meets no bounds. What we do impacts those we serve with a level of compassion that is above and beyond!

-An opportunity to get to know your community better through this program.

-An opportunity to be resourceful. Who doesn't have equipment/gear in the homes that is just sitting there collecting dust?

-An opportunity for families to give back.

-An opportunity for your department to retain more of your fees. (If you are able to support families thru this service, it is more likely they will be able to afford the cost to participate)

-Families that receive also have things to give, whether it's time volunteering, offering other resources, etc...

-This service is an example of how to positively build good will in your community

-Potential opportunity to partner with other organizations when doing something that just feels right!

How to build a Sports Equipment Recycle Program?

- Create a space-consider what happens next if you had to expand the space to meet the need.
- Determine what you will accept
- Process for drop off
- Process for determining if an item is worth keeping
- Putting items by size
- Disinfect if needed; Snuggle sheets are a great equalizer
- Offer specific pick up times or office hours
- Establish any rules; i.e. Player needs to be present to try on vs sending three different sizes off with a parent to take home; must have socks to try on footwear
- Maybe find a volunteer who wants to manage the program?
- Promote as part of your sports program advertisement.

You are not just giving someone equipment/gear, you are also reducing someone's worry and creating happiness!