



Fall Program 2014

Welcome to Memorial Knights lacrosse! The Knights exist to serve as the 5th – 8th grade feeder program for Memorial and Stratford High Schools. Although we are primarily committed to developing players through the spring GHYLA season, we are launching a fall program to introduce boys to the team.

WHO?

Any upcoming 5th through 8th grade boy residing within the boundaries of SBISD.

WHAT?

A fall program primarily focused on developing stick skills, footwork and lacrosse IQ. In addition we will register teams for two tournaments: The Cy-Fair Classic and the 7s for 7.

WHEN?

Because we believe playing multiple sports keeps young boys happy and prevents burnout, the Knights fall program is intentionally limited in scope. Beginning October 12, we will offer 2-hour training sessions in order to build skills and prepare the boys for the two tournaments. Specific dates are as follows:

October 12	Training	3pm-5pm
October 19	Training	3pm-5pm
October 26	Training	3pm-5pm
November 2	Training	3pm-5pm
November 9	Training	3pm-5pm
November 15-16	Cy-Fair Tournament	
November 23	Training	3pm-5pm
November 30	Off – Thanksgiving	
December 7	Training	3pm-5pm
December 14	Training	3pm-5pm
January 3-4	7s for 7 Tournament	

WHERE?

The location of the fall practices is to be determined, and we will communicate that information immediately upon having it nailed down.

COACHING

Leading the Knights for the fall season will be Coach Brian Winkler. Brian is a former player for Memorial High School and Texas A&M with coaching experience at Memorial High School and various youth programs in West Houston. Brian will be recruiting other excellent coaches to work with the boys and lead them during the tournaments.

COST

Cost for the fall season is \$200, which includes coaches' fees, tournament fees, field and equipment fees and a reversible Memorial Knights pinnie.

REGISTRATION

To register, complete the registration form and write a check payable to Memorial Knights Lacrosse. Mail the registration form and the check to:

Christyn Whitney
25 Valley Forge Drive
Houston, Texas 77024

OR

Bring the registration form and payment to the first practice Sunday, October 12.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. *Does the Memorial Knights program replace Memorial Junior Boys Lacrosse and Spartan Lacrosse?* Yes. The simplest way to think of the Knights is as the combination of Memorial Junior Boys Lacrosse and Spartan Lacrosse at the 5th through 8th grade levels.
2. *Is this a select team or a tournament team?* No. The purposes of the fall program are to introduce the Memorial Knights to the Memorial/Spring Branch area, build skill in young lacrosse players, and get the boys ready for the spring GHYLA season. All 5th – 8th grade boys residing within the boundaries of SBISD are welcome to participate. Therefore, there will be no tryouts for the fall team. The Board is weighing the necessity for tryouts for the spring team, but we are hoping to gather as many interested boys as we can for our fall program.
3. *How does the fall season relate to the spring season?* The fall program and program cost are separate from the spring season. We will be registering players for the spring season later in the fall, and we anticipate having a parent meeting in preparation for the spring that will introduce the history of the Knights, the long-term vision of the program, the coaching methodology, and the likely number of teams we will be fielding.

4. *What do you mean when you talk about the Knights being “developmental?”* The impetus for the formation of the Memorial Knights was the realization that the pool of potential lacrosse players within SBISD was too small to support two separate feeder programs and develop players with the skill and ability to allow Memorial and Stratford perennially to compete for state championships.

We intend for the Knights to take the long view of lacrosse development and not the short view. In other words, it is important to prepare, articulate and meet clear developmental goals between the 5th grade through the 8th grade so boys can show up for practice in high school prepared to compete at a high level. The Knights, through our coaches, will undertake this goal.

5. *Why did you name the team Memorial Knights?* As you can see from our logo, the Memorial Knights hints at portions of the logos of both Memorial and Stratford – a horse and an armor-clad warrior. Further, we believe that athletic programs ALWAYS produce character traits in young people, whether for good or for ill. It is the goal of the Knights to influence young boys to become men of character regardless of what happens on the field.