

St. Patrick Archery – 2017 State, National, & World Tournament Participant!



Dear Prospective Archery Team Parent,

With all of the notoriety the Archery Team has received for qualifying for the State, National, & World Tournaments last year, we have been receiving a great deal of interest from perspective families for this upcoming season. The answers to the most-frequently-asked questions are contained here. This past season was a huuuuge success, and this coming year could be even better! The Archery Team is a member of NASP – the *National Archery in the Schools Program*. Believe it or not, more kids participate in NASP than in Little League! As parents, your efforts are going to pave the way for countless students to become life-long archers! And that is exactly what Archery is – a sport that one can do for their entire life – even into your 70's and 80's!

TEAMS: A team consists of 24 archers. Of those 24, the top 12 scores make up our team score. Last year, we all participated on a unified Middle School team. Based upon the composition of the ages of the archers on this year's team, we may have both an Elementary Team AND a Middle School Team – but this has not yet been decided. Eligible grades to be a part of the Archery Team are grades 4-8.

Due to gym time restrictions, we only have a limited number of archers that we can accept. That is why it is so important to get signed up now. We do not have the facilities to accommodate more archers than our maximum, so you need to register your archers as soon as possible!

PRACTICES: Practice will begin between mid-September and the first of October. The season's first tournament is around Halloween, and the season **could** go all the way until July (if we qualify for National and World again). None of the archers wanted the season to end this year, and it will be the same with your child. Practices will be held each Wednesday evening, from either 6:00 – 7:00PM, or 7:00 – 8:00PM (depending upon which team you're archer is on), in the gym. We will have up to 40 archers shooting at one time – 2 archers per target. This is how tournaments will be

run, so our archers will be used to this when they get to competitions. Of course, if there is any way that you can purchase a bow, arrows and target for your child(ren) so they can practice at home, this will greatly help their advancement! But official practices will be once a week. Please mark your calendars for Wednesday nights – it is vital to be at each practice!

TOURNAMENTS: Tournaments will be held on weekends – usually on Saturdays, with a few on Friday evenings – and are held indoors. Times could be morning, afternoon or evening – just depending upon which time slots are available when we sign up. Your archer’s tournament will last approximately 1 hour. I ask that everyone arrive 30 minutes before your time slot to get settled in and registered. Therefore, your total time spent at a tournament will be about 1½ hours. Some parents bring a good pair of binoculars, because you will want to see how your archer is shooting, and it’s hard to see their scores from the bleachers!

We will attend numerous invitational tournaments, culminating with the DISTRICT Tournament at the end of January. If we do well enough, we will move on to the STATE Tournament. Those teams who do well enough there qualify for the NATIONAL Tournament, and finally, those who do well enough there qualify for the WORLD Tournament! Believe it or not, the DISTRICT, STATE and NATIONAL Tournaments are all located here in Louisville (the NATIONAL Tournament is in the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest Archery Tournament in the World)! Prizes are given at each tournament for the top archers in each category, and archers can even earn college scholarships if they do really well! I do not know of another sport where a grade schooler can win college scholarship money! Archers are able to advance both as a team AND as an individual. So if we have some incredible scores, but not enough for the entire team to advance, those archers could still advance individually.

SCORING: A NASP target is large, and consists of 10 scoring rings, numbered 1-10 (bullseye). Archers will shoot a total of 40 arrows at each tournament – 10 practice and 30 “scoring.” They will begin at 10M with a practice round of 5 arrows. They will then shoot 3 scoring rounds of 5 arrows each, all at 10M. They will then move on and repeat this same process, but at 15M. Therefore, archers will have 15 arrows that “score” for each distance – 10M and 15M. Adding the scores for the two distances will give the archer their total score. Since there are 30 arrows that count for “score,” and a bullseye is worth 10 points, the maximum score an archer can shoot in a tournament is 300.

EQUIPMENT: NASP uses **ONLY** the NASP Genesis compound bow. No other bows are allowed! They also do not allow any sighting devices or release-assists. Your archer will become a “purist” – shooting without having to rely on anything other than their own eye and concentration. They also only allow the NASP Genesis Arrows to be used. This allows for ALL archers to have the exact same chance as everyone else – the only advantage any archer will have over another is their own physical strength and amount of practice they’ve put in.

St. Patrick has made a substantial investment to begin this program, and has a number of bows, arrows and targets available for practice at school. We can also lend bows to students for the weekend tournaments. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BUY YOUR OWN BOW... BUT... *if at all possible, I highly recommend and encourage parents to purchase their archer(s) their own bow, arrows and target.*** Not only will this enable your archer to have a bow that is exactly suited to them, but it will also allow them to practice at home, since one night of practice a week is not the most desirable situation. Archers who have their own bow have a distinct advantage over those archers who do not.

If you do decide to purchase your own equipment, I HIGHLY RECOMMEND purchasing your equipment from King’s Archery (502-499-6543). While it is true that you can purchase it from Dick’s, Academy or Cabela’s, King’s has much more expertise with NASP. I found this out the hard way (and I am a BIG fan of Cabela’s). When I purchased my son’s bow, I purchased it from Cabela’s. They know all about hunting bows, but not much about NASP bows. King’s focuses on NASP. When you purchase a NASP bow from them, they will actually adjust the draw weight for your child, right there in the store. Your child can then test fire it on their indoor range, and make sure they have it set at a draw weight that they are comfortable with. They’ll also give you some great pointers while you’re there. Trust me – being able to walk out of the store with your bow being already matched to your child is a very big advantage!

If you have your own bow, you can bring it with you to practice on Wednesday nights. Also, by having your own bow, when you shoot at a tournament, your child is shooting a bow that they're already familiar with, and is already perfectly adjusted to their draw weight.

Please understand that it is NOT a requirement for you to purchase your child(ren) their own equipment! It will just give them a much better advantage over being forced to rely on what is available to them at the time, plus allow them to practice more, by also being able to practice at home.

That being said, if we are inundated with new members this year, then our supply of bows at St. Patrick may be used up. If that happens, we will have no other option than to ask archers to get their own bows. Trust me – it will be worth it!!!

FEES: The fee for participation on St. Patrick's Archery Team is \$195. While a small portion of this fee goes to cover the general equipment that St. Patrick has purchased (bows, targets, arrows, safety nets) and a **cool** uniform shirt, most of the fee goes toward the registration fee for your Archers to participate in numerous tournaments (last year we participated in approximately 20 tournaments!). There will be some tournaments that we must qualify to go to, namely State, National, and World, and these *are not* covered by this fee, but we'll let you know well in advance if we are able to go. But the fee will cover all of the regular tournaments. The cost of the tournaments is actually what 90% of your participation fee is used for!

Coaches:

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PARENTAL HELP: We have an AMAZING coaching staff, and they are great with the kids! We really encourage parents to become involved with the team and their individual archers, in any way that they can! This is a great sport that you can truly participate in with your child! Many of last year's parents purchased equipment for themselves as well, and shot "tournaments" at home with their kids! And many times, the kids won! This is **not** a requirement, but we will gladly accept any and all help and involvement you would like to offer!

OTHER SPORTS: We understand that many students participate in numerous sports and activities. We make every effort to accommodate this, but everyone needs to be aware that Archery is a year-round sport and commitment. As mentioned earlier, the season runs from September through July (hopefully!). Please keep this in mind when considering signing up for the Archery Team. We are looking for individuals who will be with us all season long – not just until Winter or Spring sports start up! Again, we can work with you on this, but it's not fair to the rest of the team to abandon the Archery Team once another sport starts up!

LET'S GET STARTED!!! Our anonymous parental surveys from this past year showed OVERWHELMING parental AND student satisfaction with their experience with the Archery Team! It's going to be an AWESOME experience for your child as well! Please join us!!!

To register for the Archery Team, go to the St. Patrick (parish – *not* school) web site, and click on "Youth Ministry." From there, click on "Additional Youth Ministry Programs," then scroll down until you find "Archery." Once you have filled out your forms and paid your fee, you will officially be reserved a spot on the team!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Coach Joe Powell at 502-836-3301 (m), or via email at joecool@presentationsolutions.com.