

Make-A-Wish®
GRAND SLAM
SLO-PITCH TOURNAMENT

★ 2024 ★

PARTICIPANT GUIDE 2024



ABOUT



HELP GRANT WISHES ONE PITCH AT A TIME

The 2nd Annual Grand Slam Slo-Pitch Tournament is your chance to get out onto the field to support making a child's most-heartfelt dream become a reality. In Northern Alberta, there are currently over 320 wishes waiting to be granted to children with critical illnesses.

Our goal this summer is to raise \$105,000 or roughly 10 wishes.

This isn't your average slo pitch tournament and this August we'll be taking over William F. Lede Park for the ultimate home run with tons of prizes to be won, delicious food trucks, awesome music, beer garden, auctions, raffles, fun-loving entertainment, and inspiring stories from our brave wish kids.

Team's of 10-15 will need to work together on and off the field by committing to raising \$5,000 by game day to compete in our two-day tournament to win the championship trophy and prizes.

Make a Grand Slam of a difference this summer by getting involved today

August 24 & 25, 2024

William F. Lede Park, Leduc, AB

10-15 Player Teams

Double Elimination Style

Each player will receive:

- 2 day tournament play access; minimum 2 games per team
- tournament hats
- opportunities to meet wish kids to see how their fundraising impacts kids in their community

BRAEDEN'S STORY

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

*I wish to be a
Toronto Blue Jays
player*

Braeden, 3
congenital heart
disease

Braeden was born with hypoplastic left heart syndrome, a condition that affects normal blood flow through the heart. His first heart surgery took place when he was just three days old, and since then, he's had three more surgeries all before his 4th birthday. He was also diagnosed with scoliosis and juvenile arthritis and, in total, has undergone nine surgeries and several treatments for his heart and other conditions.

Braeden absolutely loves baseball and asked his parents to read him the baseball rule book all the time. He is very passionate about his favourite team - the Toronto Blue Jays, Braeden's mom says that watching the Blue Jay's Russell Martin catching on TV inspired Braeden to learn how to squat and walk. The Blue Jays have been his inspiration for everything!



*Braeden, now 9,
loves playing with
his four siblings
and laughing*

In 2017, Braeden was surprised to hear about his wish to visit the team just a month before the trip. To say he was excited was an understatement! His mom said it was incredible to see her then-three-year-old standing on centre field with Ace, the Jays' mascot, and José Bautista, the team's former star right fielder. Braeden also toured the team's clubhouse and met most of the team's star players. "So many of the pictures from meeting the players are blurry because he couldn't stop bouncing up and down in excitement," Cassandra said. She added that the wish trip took place before his last heart surgery and was beneficial in keeping his spirits up. "It's amazing how having such a happy experience can have such a positive impact on a child going through tough times."










The active boy plays baseball in the summer and volt hockey in the colder months. The latter is an accessible form of hockey played in a specially designed hockey sport chair for players with limited upper mobility. Last September he traveled to the World Cup Volt Hockey in Gävle, Sweden. When he's not folding a slice of pizza into his mouth, the now nine-year-old is playing with his four siblings, helping at home, and building LEGO. His mom says he prefers comedy films and he "turns a nice shade of purple" when he laughs.



Teams must raise \$5000 (minimum) by game day.

**But for the teams who hit it out of the park
and raise more:**

Fundraising Levels

	\$5,000+	\$7,500+	\$10,000+
Play Ball			
Tournament Hats			
Team Meal*			
Wish Kid Team Captain			

Wish Kid Team Captain

Your team will be paired with a local Wish kid to act as your honorary team captain. You will get to meet them virtually before game day and they will hang out with your team as much as they can during the tournament.

Funds must be in by June 24th to qualify

Top Fundraising Team

will receive a
VIP Team Experience.

***Funds must be in by
August 23rd to qualify.***

*voucher for each team member to redeem for a meal from select food trucks

Did you know?

Each Player's Registration Fee of \$50 goes towards their fundraising total

Be a FAN!

Don't want to play the game but still want to take part in the tournament?

Sign up as a Fan!



Join a team or go solo—there's no fee to register and no age restrictions!



Teams can have unlimited Fans help them hit their goal



Do you have an adorable dog who'll be there to cheer on your team? Sign them up as a Fan and share their fundraising page!



Individual Fundraising Incentive

The Gift of Flight voucher is valid for one (1) roundtrip flight for two (2) guests to any regularly scheduled and marketed *WestJet* destination.

Every \$1000 raised earns you an entry to the draw.

Deadline: August 24th, 11:59 PM

Draw date: August 25th.

Prize Categories



Best Team Name

Best Team Spirit

1st Place Tournament Champions

Top Fundraising Team

Mascot/Costume Base Run

Home Run Derby Winner

Ulti-Mutt Fan (for our four-legged Fans!)

How are you going to get there?

The following pages are tips and ideas on how to raise funds. There are activities you can do as a team and individually. You can also reach out to the staff at Make-A-Wish and we are happy to brainstorm with you!

You might have looked at that goal and asked "Why so much?!"

The answer is on average cost of a wish is \$10,000+ so with the help of your team and the others in our tournament, we'll be able to raise enough funds to symbolically grant over 10 wishes.

With over 320 wishes in our community waiting, your efforts will ensure more wishes will be granted quickly.

Raising \$5,000 might seem a little overwhelming - we understand. We are going to provide you with as much fundraising support as possible to ensure you reach that minimum!

First things first - break it down into smaller goals:

- \$5,000 broken up by team mate is \$500 each (10 gifts of \$100, or 20 gifts of \$50 etc.)
- \$5,000 is 50 gifts of \$100
- If your company sponsors half at \$2,500 then the team needs to raise \$250 each
- More than 10 Players on the team and unlimited team Fans makes the goal even easier to achieve
- How many weeks until event day? Divide \$5,000 by that number of weeks and aim to hit that target as a team each week

Social Media

We all know the power of social media - UTILIZE it! All of your channels, including LinkedIn. We have some graphics you can download on the participant tool page online. Below is some sample messaging:

I am helping to grant wishes one pitch at a time at the Grand Slam Slo-Pitch Tournament with my team <team name> on August 24 & 25th - I need your help to hit one out of the park! Our team needs to raise \$5,000 by game day- essentially half of the funds needed to grant a wish. When a wish is granted, a child replaces fear with confidence, sadness with joy and anxiety with hope. I am supporting Make-A-Wish to make more wishes possible.

If you can, please help by donating today. Every dollar matters. #GrandSlamSloPitch #Wishesarewaiting <link to your fundraising page>

If you need help contact
Kathryn McLean

kathryn.mclean@makeawish.ca
+1 (780) 665-0178



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WAYS TO FUNDRAISE 5K!

\$1000

Have your team sign up online, customize their fundraising page and encourage them to make a \$100 self-donation.

\$1000

Host a pub night fundraiser - many local pubs will donate a portion of proceeds back to a fundraising group.

\$1000

Encourage team members to each send 20 email asks to their contacts to donate. 1-1 personal asks are the most successful.

\$1000

Encourage your friends and family to donate to help you reach your goal in lieu of a birthday or special event gift.

\$1000

Host a pancake breakfast, barbeque, car wash or garage sale with your team.

\$1000

Challenge your team to give up a daily habit and instead donate it to the fundraising campaign. A little change can go a long way!

\$1000

Text your network the link to donate! Did you know that almost 20% of donations devices?

\$1000

Share a wish story details on your personal and professional social media channels with a link to your fundraising page.

\$1000

Follow up with all of your supporters! Let them know how the day went. If you did not hit your fundraising goal appeal for a post event donation.



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MORE WAYS TO FUNDRAISE 5K!

SOCIAL MEDIA:

You're doing something very cool, so why not share with your friends and ask for their support along the way? Use the hashtag #GrandSlamSloPitch

CUSTOMIZE YOUR ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE:

Add your fundraising page link to the bottom of your signature.

FRIEND FUNDRAISING:

Ask friends and family to donate to your fundraising efforts via our event website. Tell your friends and family why Make-A-Wish is important to you and ask them to help you reach your goal.

HOST A CASUAL DAY OR JEANS DAY AT YOUR OFFICE:

Your colleagues can dress down if they contribute \$5 to the cause.

CORPORATE MATCH:

Get your company on board by engaging management. Your workplace may already have a match program in place, or your management team may be inspired by your efforts and decide to contribute.

THE WORKPLACE:

Get your manager committed to the cause and give your team some incentives by convincing management to do something silly if your team reaches a certain goal. Perhaps your boss will dress in costume for a whole day if your team raises \$5,000!

SWEAR JAR/ WORD JAR:

Have a specified jar handy if your office tends to have a naughty mouth, or just ban a certain word in the office that you can do without.

FRIENDLY COMPETITION:

Organize a challenge between work departments or another team in the tournament.

SNACK ATTACK:

We all know everyone gets the 2pm munchies. Fill a basket full of goodies and go around the office selling those yummy items people can't say no to. Think of it as a travelling vending machine!

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD:

Bake sales, potluck lunches, pizza day, or a Mexican fiesta - get creative!

SPARE CHANGE:

Have a donation box in the lunch room and at the front of the desk to collect extra change. It's old school, but it works!

BOW OUT FEE:

To play you pay \$10 and the winning team gets to leave early the following Friday.

AUCTIONS/DRAWS:

Gift certificates, parking spaces, day off, concert tickets and draws are a great way to get your colleagues involved.

MAKE-A-WISH LUNCH AND LEARN'S:

Want to get your company excited about the impact they'll have this summer? Our staff is ready to present what we do at Make-A-Wish to inspire your team!

DID YOU KNOW?

Each donation made through our website is eligible for a tax receipt

