



What is Upward?

The Upward Sports Ministry exists to assist families in building a strong foundation by promoting a relationship with Jesus Christ through a uniquely designed sports program.

Since 2009, Upward at Immanuel has been serving the greater McHenry County community as a sports ministry dedicated to providing kids a safe and nurturing place to grow in character, confidence, faith, and sportsmanship while discovering and refining their athletic abilities.

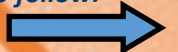
Coach led devotions at practice and post-game sessions of acknowledgement/encouragement are tools used to fortify a child's foundation and promote growth.



Registration for Fall 2018/Winter 2019 Upward Basketball and Cheer opens on May 1, 2018 at www.immanuelcl.org (Upward tab)



"Amazing experience and we are so appreciative for everyone who had a hand in making Upward the program it is. Upward is an excellent basketball option for our youth in the Crystal Lake area and a modeling example for other basketball leagues and programs to follow."



F A Q

When does the season begin? The Fall Season is mid-October thru mid-December for Kindergarten thru 8th grade girls and Kindergarten/1st grade boys. The Winter Season is mid-January thru mid-March for 2nd - 8th grade boys. Kindergarten thru 5th grade Cheer squads participate both seasons.

When are practices? Practices are 1 hour long on Wednesday OR Friday at the Immanuel Lutheran School gym. Teams have 45 minutes of gym time that includes warm-up, skills/drills, and scrimmage. Practice ends with a coach led devotion.

When are games? You will have 8 great Gameday Saturdays to experience Upward at the Immanuel Lutheran School gym.

What are EVALUATIONS? Veteran or rookie, evaluations are MANDATORY for all Upward basketball participants. We value your time and have created evaluations by appointment. You will receive an email to sign up for an age appropriate evaluation slot after registering.

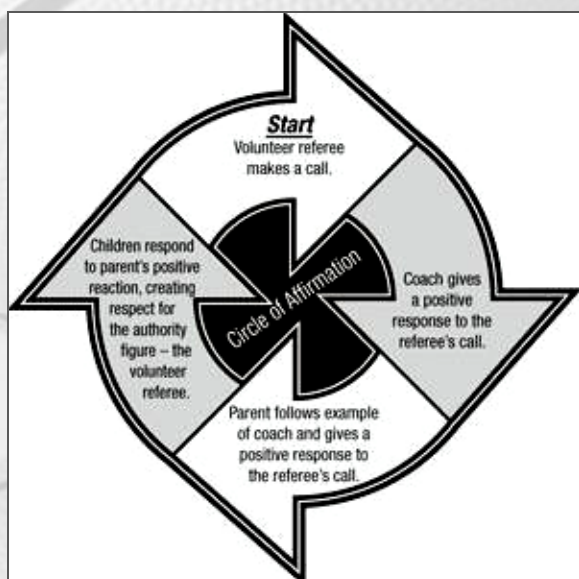
Can I request a specific coach or that my child be with his/her friends? We know your kids like to play with their friends and we will make every effort to accommodate carpooling and other special requests... we just cannot guarantee that all requests will be honored. We take our responsibility very seriously to provide your family with a quality Upward experience. To that end, it's important that all levels of ability be spread equitably across all teams. Your child will participate in evaluations and be placed on a great team accordingly -- a wonderful opportunity for him/her to grow and make new friends!

"It was a wonderful season! Great coaches, teammates, parents, and program. We will be back next year for sure! Overall it was a great growing experience for my son. Thank you all!"

How are coaches vetted? Our Leadership Team is in continual communication with our volunteer coaches, all of whom have agreed to abide by the Upward Sports at Immanuel Value Statements. All coaches and volunteers involved with Upward are required to complete an application and criminal background check.

Can I volunteer to coach? Absolutely!....in fact, all Upward coaches are volunteers -- primarily parents of participants. Training and written materials will be provided and a Coaching Commissioner will support you throughout the season. Contact Shelly Davidson for more information.

How can I help? Thanks for asking! First, you can pray for the Upward program and all the lives that will be touched in the name of Jesus Christ. Secondly, talk with your child's coach about being the TEAM PARENT to coordinate weekly snacks and other team needs. And finally, embrace and live out loud the Upward Circle of Affirmation.



Upward Leadership Team

Shelly Davidson, Director: sdavidson@immanuelcl.org
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 Tom Rancak: Gameday Manager
 Tom Christl, Randy Helm: Coaching Commissioner
 Steve Smith: Lead Referee