



## Our Story



I created Soaring Eagles Baseball Camp in 2012 to earn money during the summer to pursue my college degree and play college baseball. In 2020, I expanded my summer camp business into a year-round Baseball Academy. In addition to our traditional summer camps that have become a huge hit throughout the Lake Norman area, we now offer individual & group lessons, weekend mini-camps and day clinics in the fall, winter and spring, as well as PE and baseball instruction for home schoolers and pandemic pods throughout the school year.

I grew up playing baseball in a youth sports league that was centered on teaching solid fundamentals in a highly competitive environment...all the while reinforcing faith-based life lessons along the way. These values and the proper way to play the game were again reinforced when I attended SouthLake Christian Academy where we won our first-ever State Championship! We were the Southlake Christian Eagles, which inspired the name for my camps.

I set out to create a summer baseball camp for kids to improve their fundamental baseball skills in a fun-filled environment that is both competitive and instructional, yet also encouraging and full of life lessons taught along the way. I also wanted to give kids the opportunity for a “sandlot” baseball type experience where they could develop a genuine love for the game, make some new friends and learn some new skills that would enable them to take their game to a whole new level.

That first summer we had around 20 kids participate in 2 weeks of summer camps. Since that time, we have grown to the point where we are now conducting more than half a dozen camps each summer; all of them sold-out with over 150 kids participating June through August.

Based on feedback I’ve gotten from many campers and their parents over the years, there seems to be several contributing factors that distinguish the Soaring Eagles Baseball camps from other camps. Allow me to mention just a few that I often hear:

- **FUNdamentals**: Using predominately counselors who have collegiate playing experience, we teach, demonstrate and practice proven, age-appropriate techniques. Campers get tons of repetitions throughout the week to develop and hone their fielding, hitting and baserunning skills; as well as raise their baseball IQ in team exercises centered around cut-off drills, run-downs, bunting, pitching, catching, etc....and of course, the “Top Secret” sliding practice on the Slip-n-Slide on Wednesdays that’s become a beloved Soaring Eagles Baseball Camp tradition.

- **Faith & Encouragement:** We start each day with a sports-oriented devotion intended to keep faith and character in the forefront of our hearts, minds and actions. We then look for opportunities to reinforce these devotions on the field throughout the week and encourage campers along the way. It's not uncommon for us to stop a drill or take a pause during a scrimmage game to seize a teachable moment and remind ourselves of what a blessing it is to be out there!
- **Family-Oriented:** I've had the good fortune in our past camps to have my mom, dad, brother, grandfather and uncle out at camp helping out from time to time. I think it's good for young people to see "families" working hard together, helping each other, learning from each other AND having fun together! To further reinforce this notion, we invite parents and family members to come out during the week as their schedules permit to observe the morning skill station drills, the afternoon scrimmages and especially the Awards Presentation and Backwards Baseball game at the end of the week.
- **FUN:** We keep the camps fun while maintaining a good balance between solid instruction, discipline and joy for the game. The mornings are full of fun-filled drills and competitions while the after-lunch time is reserved for the much-anticipated scrimmage games. The week culminates with 5 Skill Competitions and a Backwards Baseball scrimmage game where parents, siblings and grandparents are invited to participate as we bat oppo, catch and throw with our opposite hands and run backwards from base to base...starting with 3<sup>rd</sup> base! We wrap-up the week with an Awards Presentation where each camper is presented with a personalized certificate that highlights a unique talent they possess that we noted during the week. Again, we strongly encourage parents to join us on the field for the award presentation as campers and their families have come to cherish this time together....as do we coaches!

I hope this gives you a sense of what the Soaring Eagles Baseball Academy is all about. Of course, no words can adequately express the full extent of what all transpires out on the field during these summer camps. The love that every instructor shows these kids is truly special and accounts for a large reason why Soaring Eagles Baseball Camps have become what they are today. The only way to truly experience it is to come out and join us!

So, what are you waiting for? Sign-Up Today!

Hope to see you at the Ballpark soon,

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