



## Ravenswood

Youth Athletic Association

*Building Character, Families and Faith*



# About the Ravenswood Youth Athletic Association

## Mission

The Ravenswood Youth Athletic Association (RYAA) is a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization whose mission is to build character, families, and faith in the youth of East Palo Alto and east Menlo Park (the Belle Haven area). We do that through positive, faith-based sports programs at all levels of play.

## Strategy

The RYAA offers a variety of low-cost, high-quality sports programs to the Ravenswood community. Sports creates an environment of small groups where children are eager to learn from the coach. We recruit these coaches from a variety of churches inside and outside of the community, from parents of the participants, from the staff at local schools, and the community at large.

We support the efforts of the coaches with the following:

- Training in teaching sports and in working with children.
- Materials that include practice plans, character development lessons, and positive coaching techniques.
- An incentive program that rewards youth for demonstrating good character during games.
- A positive environment that encourages the players to express their own faith at practices and games.



While we are a faith-based program, our programs are open to all participants regardless of their religious beliefs. All of our programs are priced affordably, and also include the ability for participants to work in the program in exchange for participation fees.

## Programs

### Fall Recreational Soccer

Our Fall soccer seasons host over 400 participants on over 40 teams. In our recreational soccer program, everyone gets a chance to play, and the emphasis is on fun, good sportsmanship, character development, and positive coaching. Coaches use a curriculum to teach soccer skills and Biblically based life skills. Players earn badges by demonstrat-



---

ing good character. Games begin with prayer and end with handshakes. All games are in East Palo Alto and the Belle Haven community.

### **Competitive Soccer**

For those players wishing to play in a more competitive environment all year round, we offer a competitive soccer program. This environment gives coaches a chance to develop long-term relationships with players and families. Teams often travel to other cities to play games.

### **Tennis**

Periodically we host a series of tennis lessons and clinics. This is a great alternative for kids who are not interested in contact sports.



### **Summer Camps**

New to 2010 were 6 weeks of summer sports and activity camps, taught by volunteer experts in each sport. Sports and activities include: tennis, wrestling, bicycling, volleyball, flag football, dancing, singing, and soccer.

### **Partnership Opportunities**

We are always looking for program directors, coaches, referees, administrative help, Bible club leaders, photographers, special project coordinators and other volunteers. No experience is necessary. We will teach you what you need to do, and walk along side of you during the season.

Families in particular have found serving in the RYAA rewarding. Parents have found it an easy way to combine service with providing their own children a positive sports experience.

To find out more, contact us at:

RYAA  
2379 Dumbarton Ave.  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303  
(650) 331-0382  
info@ryaa.org



or see the Web site at <http://www.ryaa.org/>