

Chesapeake Chapter of US Lacrosse hosting free clinic on Sunday

By Staff report
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Jim Lighthizer, board member for the Chesapeake Chapter of US Lacrosse, displaying one of the STX sticks that will be given away to the first 70 registrants for a free clinic being held Sunday at Tick Neck Park in Pasadena. - Original Credit: (Courtesy Photo / HANDOUT)

The Chesapeake Chapter of US Lacrosse has partnered with the Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks Department to conduct a free clinic on Sunday at Tick Neck Park in Pasadena.

Loyola-Maryland All-American attackman Patrick Spencer and US Lacrosse Hall of Famer Mike Burnett will provide high-level instruction during the clinic, which is being held from 2 to 4 p.m. on the two new turf fields at Tick Neck Park, which is located at 7750 Edwin Raynor Boulevard.

Those two new turf fields were recently completed at a cost of \$2 million. Anne Arundel County received \$1.2 million toward the project from Exelon Corporation following its lease termination on a portion of the approximately 260-acre Brandon Woods land parcel.

“Having this clinic at our new Tick Neck Park facility is ideal,” said Dave Smalley, Deputy Director of Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks.

The Chesapeake Chapter of US Lacrosse purchased 70 sticks from STX to give away to the first 70 youngsters that register for the clinic.

Jim Lighthizer, a member of the Board of Directors for the Chesapeake Chapter of US Lacrosse, worked with Recreation and Parks to organize this special clinic.

Lighthizer also serves as commissioner of the Greater Severna Park Youth Athletic Association Green Hornets lacrosse program. Several Green Hornets coaches, including John Barnes, Peter Hilgartner, Mike Ruppert, Todd McNemar and Mike McCarthy, will also provide instruction during the clinic.

“Long-established lacrosse travel programs are siphoning off a high volume of players with promise of out-of-town tournaments and intense competition,” Lighthizer said. “This trend has been to the detriment of local recreation programs, which have been historically comprised of kids residing within the same neighborhood. Clinics such as this one aim to add fun back into the recreational sports programs and encourage kids to try the sport by providing free equipment and instruction.”

County executive Steve Schuh is expected to attend the clinic and address participants.

“Lacrosse remains the fastest growing team sport in the United States. However, many young people and their families lack the resources to get started,” Schuh stated. “This clinic is geared towards beginners with little or no exposure to the sport with the primary goal of demonstrating the exercise, team-building, camaraderie and social interaction benefits of playing lacrosse.”

Sunday’s clinic is open to boys between the ages of 7 and 13. Interested players are encouraged to register in advance by clicking on: www.aacounty.org/departments/recreation-parks/sports.