

BASIC BREAKS RECORDS



After enduring a year of virtual BASIC, the American Baseball Foundation staged a comeback. The 24th annual Summer BASIC program ran from June 2nd to 30th, 2021 at The Guiding Light Church in Irondale, Alabama.

Attracting 65 students from Jefferson and Shelby counties, the ABF adjusted its programming to offer more academic

BASIC '21 Yankees, 6-7 year old students amassed phenomenal, on-average reading gains of fourteen months!



content as well as intervention lessons. Rotating seven times from a reading or math station to a sports station, students, ages 6 to 15, glided through the 6.5-hour day.

They enjoyed the fun of learning building blocks for reading

enjoyment, math application, as well as the fundamentals of soccer, volleyball, and baseball. The action produced tangible dividends as, on average, the students gained **6.8 months to grade level in math and 5.6 months in reading.**



Ten-month aggregate academic gains

Not surprisingly, BASIC's secret to success consists in its students. Annually ex-participants return to volunteer daily to help young students. They serve as bridge between students and teachers, encouraging engagement in all program activities. BASIC produces leaders!

BASIC has enjoyed the support of John Carroll Catholic High School volunteers for almost two decades. In 2021 young role models contributed greatly.



John Carroll Catholic HS volunteers



BASIC Builds Leaders

When David Mondragon walks into camp there's a round of cheers and he's surrounded with high fives and hugs. David's positivity and can-do spirit are always present, whether he's boosting a first-grader's confidence on the baseball field or leading middle schoolers in a lively game of soccer.

He first enrolled in BASIC at the age of seven and is now in his 10th year. BASIC has become a Mondragon family tradition. David attended every year with his sister, Monze, then began volunteering as a teenager. Six of his cousins are enrolled in camp this year.

"I love how the volunteers gave me a good experience while I was here, so I come back every year to make sure the kids have fun," said David who is bilingual. David, like many of the children who attend camp, had never played sports before he started BASIC. He said the camp not only showed him the skills to play but taught him respect and tenacity.

"I learned how to respect my teachers and coaches and how to fight through tough situations,"



Cousin Paula

David is the kicker for the Locust Fork High School football team and hopes to earn a scholarship to play in college. While David has yet to decide on a career, he wants to continue coaching middle and high school students to give back to his community.



Cousin Sandy



ABF teachers Kenneth McGaughy & Shanese Morgan (2nd & 3rd from right) pose with KC BASIC

BASIC Debuts with Kansas City Royals Baseball Club

The ABF's strategy to disseminate BASIC has been to seek partners who possess the administrative will to create and sustain an engaging learning environment for summer learning fun. In 2021 the Kansas City Royals Baseball Club has opted to offer BASIC to their Urban Youth Academy students. The ABF is honored to have an MLB team as a partner, as the reading curriculum features baseball's positive role in U.S. society.

Three ABF representatives traveled to Kansas City June 11-12 to train teachers in the fundamentals of BASIC. A dozen teachers and coaches attended the two training sessions. "We're impressed by the success of BASIC and excited to integrate it into our summer program," said Jeff Diskin, Director of Professional Development at the Kansas City Royals.

BASIC Gratitude Tree



COVID 19 caused the ABF to adjust its program, so that the only time that the sixty plus students were together was at the newly established Gratitude Tree.

Students shared their reasons for being grateful, ranging from "be grateful to be at camp" to "not to judge". At the end of the program several students noted in their evaluations that they enjoyed the Gratitude Tree, as they shared their experiences with their peers. Thanks to

the pandemic, the ABF has added a valuable tool for peer-to-peer empathy and understanding.



American Baseball Foundation Inc.



BASIC Camp Poem

by Valeria

*At camp you meet new friends
Learn new things, play new games
that have cool names
You also behave to get tickets that
are different sizes
Those tickets help you get different
prizes
The games we play on a daily are
repetitive
Yet they still get so competitive
You have lots of fun, but if you
misbehave you do lots of runin
At the end day I really enjoyed my
first year at camp*

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