



## HOST FAMILY AND ADOPT-A-PLAYER PROGRAMS

### What does it mean to host/adopt a player?

Throughout minor league baseball, host family and adoptive family programs play a vital role in the development of young baseball players.

The majority of the Black Bears' players are young, and new to the minor league system.

They are unable to see their families due to their hectic schedules, and are hundreds (if not thousands) of miles away from home.

These programs give our players the opportunity to feel part of a loving, family environment, while adjusting to life at the

professional level of baseball. By

hosting or adopting a player, you not only support the players, but the team, too!



### Quick Facts:

- ❖ The Black Bears are the first level of minor league baseball in the minor league hierarchy for the Pirates.

#### Pirates' Minor League Structure

Indianapolis Indians (AAA)

Altoona Curve (AA)

Bradenton Marauders (High A)

Greensboro Grasshoppers (Class A)

West Virginia Black Bears (Class A Short)

Rookie League



## What to Expect When Hosting/Adopting a Player

- Players lead busy, active, lives; with practice, strength training, community engagements, and games, their days are generally tightly scheduled.
- Due to the schedule of games, they may be gone for 6 to 7 days at a time.
- Players are expected to be polite, respectful, and courteous when with their host/adoptive families. Host families are encouraged to set and enforce their own *reasonable* house rules. Remember: they are adults, and busy ones, at that!
- Promotions are a good thing! Except they can happen quite unexpectedly. If a player is promoted, we will notify you *as soon as possible* (if it happens in the middle of the night, for example, players know to leave a note for host families). Once a player leaves the team, you can choose to continue participating in the program. At that time, a different player will be assigned, or the spot may be left open in the event the hosted/adopted player returns.
- Host families are compensated \$200 per month, per player, for providing accommodations.
- If you have issues, problems, or questions, do not hesitate to contact Leighann or the community relations intern! We are here to help!



### More Quick Facts:

- ❖ Many of the Black Bears' players are **new draft picks** or **international players**.
- ❖ Average age of a Black Bears player is 22.
- ❖ Typically, the Black Bears hold **5 to 8 international players** on their roster during the season.
- ❖ Players can be promoted or "called up" to higher levels of baseball (including MLB), at *any given time*; they can also be sent down to lower levels of the minor leagues.

## Benefits of Participating

- ❖ Complimentary tickets
- ❖ Access to behind-the-scenes looks at what life is like in professional baseball
- ❖ Special events exclusively for host/adoptive families
- ❖ Being part of a professional baseball player's life and experiences as he continues his career



## **What is expected of Host Families:**

- Provide player with his own bed
- Provide player access to washer, dryer, and refrigerator
- Provide means transportation if player does not have own transportation (optional)
- Help orient player with surrounding Morgantown area (stores, restaurants, etc.)
- Be a second family!

## **What is expected of Adoptive Families:**

- Help orient player with surrounding Morgantown area (stores, restaurants, etc.)
- Be a second family!



## **Contact Information**

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