

# NEWS RELEASE

Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau



## Baseball Takes Over Rockford

*Returning AABC Baseball Tournament and First Time All Girls Baseball Tournament Hosted in Rockford*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 19, 2017

**Rockford, IL** – Baseball will dominate the Rockford Regions as the American Amateur Baseball Congress (AABC) returns to the Rockford Region July 28, 2017 through August 9, 2017 and Baseball For All Nationals, an all-girl tournament, comes to Rockford Thursday, July 27, 2017 July 31, 2017, for the first time.

Mercyhealth Sportcore Two will host 24 all girl baseball teams from all over the country including California, Florida, Texas and even one team from Rockford for the Baseball For All National Tournament. The teams range from age 7 to 17.

Approximately 1,000 visitors will be in attendance for the games and for the opening ceremony taking place at Beyer Stadium, home of the Rockford Peaches. The opening ceremony will also include the opening of the International Women's Baseball Center, which will remain in Rockford.

Baseball For All seeks to foster, encourage and provide opportunities for girls to participate in baseball and educate the public on the importance of providing equal opportunities for girls.

"Rockford provides this unique and incredible opportunity for girls to come from around the country and play where the All American Girls Professional Baseball Leagus played," said Justine Siegal, founder of Baseball For All. "Beyer Stadium is a national treasure, and it's just magical to connect with the rich history of the Rockford Peaches and the girls who are playing baseball today."

The AABC returns for the third year with 64 co-ed teams also from all over the country, including teams from Puerto Rico. Players ranging from ages 9 to 13 will compete at Mercyhealth Sportscore Two. Players, coaches, and spectators will total more than 5,000 visitors in the Rockford area for the tournament, leaving an economic impact of more than \$720,000.

The AABC mission strives to enlarge and advance the scope of amateur baseball by stimulating interest and competition. The tournament has been growing year by year. Only one age group was here in 2015, three age groups in 2016 and now the tournament stands at four age groups coming to compete in Rockford.

"It's exciting to see successful growth in the tournaments we host," said Nick Povalitis, Sports Destination and Sales Manager at Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau. "It's even more exciting to bring tournaments to Rockford for the first time and our hope is that they keep coming back."

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Additional information on either tournaments can be found at

<http://www.baseballforall.com/nationalsrockford>

<http://www.aabc.us/page/show/2271612-aabc-world-series>

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