

TOPSOCCER Buddies Needed

Soccer program for youth with special needs starts

Sign Up To Be A Buddy

If you are a youth soccer player, love soccer, want to give something back to the game, or an interested adult and want to help someone with special needs, TOPSoccer has a place for you. Buddies provide support, guidance, and a play partner to the TOPSoccer player. Buddies do not have to be a travel or school player – all a prospective buddy needs is compassion for others and love of the game. (If you are interested in being a buddy, please download the buddy registration form at <http://www.naplessoccer.com/download.html> and e-mail the form to Buddy Recruiting Coordinator Aimee Kornetti aimeekornetti@aol.com Here is some more information on the program.

About Naples TOPSoccer

Local soccer players are again joining with Naples Youth Soccer Club to host TOPSoccer, a program geared specifically to introducing soccer to children with special needs. TOPSoccer is an outreach effort under the auspices of United States Youth Soccer (USYS) and the Florida Youth Soccer Association (FYSA).

The program began in this area in spring of 2002, marking the first time TOPSoccer was offered in the Naples area. It is the only program in the country run as a cooperative effort by soccer clubs in the area.

TOPSoccer teams up youth soccer players and interested adults with Naples area special needs athletes. Designed to enrich the lives of athletes with special needs through the game of soccer, TOPSoccer is open to any boy or girl, ages 4-19, who has a mental or physical disability.

The youth soccer players – called “buddies” help the TOPSoccer athletes learn the game of soccer, or just enjoy moments of physical activity, through a variety of soccer-themed activities and games, appropriate to the age and ability of players.

Each player is matched with a local youth player “buddy” or buddies who assist volunteer coaches and the TOPSoccer athletes-participants in the learning process. Parents are a part of the program and are required to remain on site throughout the sessions.