

Mark Janes: Oregon Youth Soccer Association Volunteer of the Year



Lincoln Youth Soccer Club Volunteer

With Lincoln Youth Soccer Club, Mark is involved in all different aspects of local recreational and competitive programs and has worked tirelessly as a volunteer to make a positive impact on his community. He believes that soccer is a powerful vehicle for improving lives and everything he does starts with asking, “what is best for the kids?”

Positions Held, Accomplishments, and Contributions:

- **Current Lincoln Youth Soccer Board Member:**
 - Mark is involved in all aspects of LYS Administration. He has also spearheaded the building of the club’s website, creating of the club’s Wikipedia page, drafting of club-wide questionnaires, and supporting of registration.
- **Current Lincoln Youth Soccer Coach:**
 - Mark coaches with the 2009B program.
- **Hillside Soccer Club President (3+ years):**
 - Mark handles all aspects of club business including registration, refunds, team formation, coach and player recruitment, website creation and updates, programming publicization and jamboree organization. Mark also attends association meetings, provides templates for awards, and takes action-shots of players for distribution to their families. Additionally, he helps other recreational soccer programs (Vista, FHSC, Skyline) with their registration and refunds.
 - Mark helped LYS secure the lease for the Hillside Community Center and is an active member of the HCC Advisory Committee. He has led projects including upgrades to the HVAC system, installation of the sound system, adjustments to systems during the COVID-19 pandemic, and organization of a volunteer workday. Mark also facilitates regular open-play futsal when the HCC is open.
- **Current Hillside Soccer Club Coach:**
 - Mark coaches with 2008/2009 birth year recreational teams.

- **Free Play Hero:**
 - Mark regularly organizes neighborhood pick-up soccer games, as he is a big believer in free play. Along with the dozens of pick-up games he organizes each year, Mark always looks for additional opportunities for his community to play.

- **Devotee of Positive Coaching:**
 - Mark believes in positive coaching, the importance of a growth mindset, and letting the players own the game – rather than be subject to overbearing coaching. He is his players’ biggest fan and supporter. Because Mark models this positive behavior and consistently mentors other coaches in the club, he has a widespread impact on his community.

- **Advocate for Disadvantaged and At-Risk Kids:**
 - Beyond making financial assistance available to families, Mark has provided car rides, jerseys, shin guards, and cleats to players in need.

- **Field Advocate and Fundraiser**
 - Mark is one of the driving forces behind the Chapman Elementary School turf-replacement project and fundraising. He also provided support to the West Sylvan turf project.