



Dear Families,

The Rockford Razorbacks were founded in 2012 by a group of players who each had their lives changed by the sport of lacrosse. We made the decision that we wanted to pass a sport we loved, on to boys and girls throughout the area. We wanted to provide them an opportunity they might not have otherwise had, and to have Razorbacks Lacrosse be a positive impact in their lives.

In our first year, our club consisted of one JV team. We have grown to 5 teams, from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through high school, including the first steps of a girls' team. We have grown from 15 players our initial year to nearly 100 players on an annual basis. We have brought kids from every background, from dozens of schools throughout the area, together to learn a new sport, to become part of a team, and to make friends for life. We have had a number of athletes go on to play club lacrosse in college, others have signed on to NCAA lacrosse teams, and last year we had our first D1 and our first girl's lacrosse signings. We also have a number of former players coaching teams at multiple levels, in different programs and schools. Lacrosse greatly impacted all of these young men and women who started with us as kids, now they are making a difference with others.

The original funding for the Razorbacks came from one local businessman philanthropist, who also had a passion for the sport. Through his generosity, we were able to procure the equipment and fields we needed to start this program. We have used those monies to fund this club since our inception. Every year, our biggest concern has been making the sport available to as many kids as possible. Because of this, we have always kept our fees low, even refusing to raise them despite rising operational costs. All of the local camps and clinics we have done for the Rockford Park District, YMCA or local schools have always been done for free. We have never paid any of our volunteer coaches and staff and we have run our budget at a small deficit each year, to try and make this game available to everyone.

Due to rising costs and the impact COVID had on our numbers, the Razorbacks are in need of your assistance, so we can continue to serve the needs of the local lacrosse community. With local high school programs starting in the area in the next couple of years, it is vital for our organization to thrive, so that the high school programs can be sustained.

We are looking for personal and/or corporate donations, and those interested in sponsorship opportunities. The Rockford Razorbacks are a registered 501 (C)(3) charity and contributions are tax deductible. If you or anyone you know, might be interested a donation or sponsorship to help the Razorbacks continue to grow and to make a difference in our community, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for your consideration.

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