

# GREENVILLE Yard Gnomes HOST FAMILY HANDBOOK





# WELCOME HOST FAMILIES



We are so excited to have you join our team this season! Being a Gnomes Host Family is a rewarding experience.

Over the course of the season you and your family will develop a unique and memorable relationship with a student-athlete working towards his dream of playing professional baseball.

The Coastal Plain League considers host families the foundation of our league. A player's experience starts in your home and before you know it, they are part of your family.

Our Host Family committee has worked countless hours to select dedicated host families to help us achieve our mission of providing a positive, happy, and fun life experience for each player as they transition from their colleges and hometowns to the City of Greenville.

With the help of our field manager, Jack Schaffer, and Host Family Committee we have made it a priority to match you with a player suitable to you and your family's lifestyle. We require our players to respect your expectations and be dedicated to their performance on the field.

As the Yard Gnomes General Manager, it is my goal to ensure your host-family experience is the best. Our team is committed to building strong lasting relationships with you, your family, and your player(s).

You are an important part of this team; and as our teammate, we encourage you to share your thoughts, feedback, and stories with us anytime. We are always here to listen and support you. Cheers to a fun, successful, memorable, and Championship.

John McCormick  
General Manager, Greenville Yard Gnomes







## THE HOST FAMILY MISSION

To serve as community ambassadors while providing a positive, happy and fun life experience in a family environment as student-athletes transition from their colleges and hometowns to the City of Greenville and the Yard Gnomes

## THE COASTAL PLAIN LEAGUE

The Coastal Plain League is the nation's premier summer-collegiate baseball league. The CPL is currently comprised of 15 franchises playing in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. Players are not paid, so as to maintain their college eligibility. Graduated seniors are also eligible to play in the Coastal Plain League.

Teams are run similarly to a professional Minor League team by providing players an opportunity to play under the same conditions. Teams play a minimum of 48 games scheduled from late May until August.

To date, the CPL has had nearly 1,750 alumni drafted and 182 alums make their Major League debut.

## THE ROLE OF A HOST FAMILY

The role of the host family is to provide housing and meals to our players. Housing requirements include a bed, a private room if at all possible, and access to a bathroom. Players' also need access to laundry services to wash personal items. Host families are not asked to do the players laundry.

Outside of room and board, host families are simply asked to monitor the player and help with anything they need. Most players are new to the area and may need help with directions, finding restaurants, stores and local amenities.



# HOST FAMILY TICKETS & PERKS

## HOST FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Host families will receive a Yard Gnomes shirt and hat, priority access to giveaway items and discounts at local partners.

- Reserved tickets in the grandstand
- A Greenville Yard Gnomes Host Family Card for 25% off merchandise at the Team Store (in-stadium)
- FREE Admission (subject to availability) to any CPL Ballpark all season
- Professional photo with hosted player (photos will be scheduled)

## ADDITION ACTIVITES & EVENTS

**PRE-SEASON SOCIAL:** Prior to the start of the season, the Yard Gnomes will host a pre-season social to meet with players and coaches.

**HOST FAMILY APPRECIATION:** Throughout the season, we will integrate host families into events, game days and more. We will host a Host Family Appreciation day during the Friday, July 15th game. More details to be provided.







## REPORT DATE & PLAYER SCHEDULE

Yard Gnomes players will report on a staggered basis, which is based upon the conclusion of their collegiate season. On-time players will report three to four days before the first scheduled game and will need housing for as long as they are with us; the season ends the first week of August.

## HOME GAMES

On a daily basis the players will report to batting practice in the early afternoon and play games in the evening when they are at home.

## AWAY GAMES

For away games players will leave at different time, which will be determined by the travel location of the away game. Players will return home after the conclusion of the game. Because of the travel distance of some away games, players will at times be returning home very early in the morning.

## OFF DAYS

Players get few off days during the season. On their days off, the team will generally give the players the day to themselves to enjoy Greenville. Families are more than welcome to discuss planning activities with their player if they wish.

The players will be leaving and arriving home many times while you are at work or asleep. Therefore, we ask families to either leave a key for their player or communicate with them access to the house. We also advise that you notify neighbors that a new person will be coming and going from your house to not cause any issues.

If you have any issues or events that the player needs to be aware of, please communicate that directly with the player.







## FOOD AND MEALS

The following meals are provided by the Yard Gnome organization.

- Post-Game meal after each home game
- Post-Game meal after each away game

The player and host family are responsible for all additional meals. We recommend maintaining a reasonable amount of food stocked for your player. It's best to talk with your player when they arrive to get an idea of what they like to eat for meals and snacks.

Please note that many of the players will not be around the house for every meal. Players may arrive home late since games do not typically start until after 6PM. Families should communicate to the player about leftovers and/or teach the player how to use the equipment in the kitchen.

## HOW MUCH SHOULD I COOK?

Players are on an active-season performance diet. We recommend that you make an extra helping or two of your normal meal.

Most families do provide at one to two meals per day. We recommend the family expect to prepare one to two meals per day. If you do not cook meals, please make sure to provide meal supplies for the player to make their own meals.

## GUEST AND HOUSE RULES

Players are not allowed to invite anyone into your home without your approval, to include a date or significant other. All players must abide by any house rules you establish and are expected to maintain themselves in an adult manor at all times. If the player plans to spend the night with a date or significant other, to include visiting from out of town, we strongly recommend utilization of the Yard Gnomes friends-and-family discount at one of our local partner hotels if accommodations are not already in place.







## HOUSE RULE ISSUES

If a player does not follow house rules or relate to the family appropriately, at the point when you feel you have clearly addressed the issue(s) and reiterated your expectations to the player, if resolution is not to your satisfaction, please contact John McCormick, so that the Yard Gnomes staff can get involved to facilitate an outcome.

The host family's comfort level with having a player in its home is of utmost importance to us. The players are responsible athletes and are screened prior to being offered a position on the team.

## SMOKING POLICY

The Yard Gnomes are so grateful for our host families; however if your preference is to smoke in the house, we cannot place a player to stay there. We instead encourage you to inquire with our staff about another manner to be involved and support the organization.

## TRANSPORTATION

It is not the responsibility of the host family to drive the players to the field or other places. Players will either arrive with their own vehicle or will be strategically placed near or with a player, who has a vehicle.

## DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

Providing a safe family environment both on and off the field is our priority. Yard Gnomes players under the age of 21 are not allowed to drink while playing for the team. Any drug use of any type is not permitted or tolerated.







## ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

### Can I host more than one player?

Yes, if you have the space this is ideal for the players. In many cases we will pair up players from the same school who already know each other.

### How long will I have my player?

Due to the nature of summer-collegiate baseball, there is no consistent answer to this question unfortunately. If for any reason your player does not remain all summer, and you hopefully wish to continue hosting, the Yard Gnomes will happily assign you the next fitting player that reports and who did not already have a placement prior to arrival. This uncertainty and flexibility on your family's part, regarding players sometimes shuffling in and out, can be challenging; and is one of the big reasons we extend our gratitude and support for your invaluable service.

### Can we choose which player we host?

No, we will try to match players with the families the best we can based on the players' information. If you have any specific requests, please let us know.

## HOST FAMILY CONTACTS

**John McCormick**

[jmccormick@gnomesbaseball.com](mailto:jmccormick@gnomesbaseball.com)

or you can reach our

**Host Family Committee**

[hostfamily@gnomesbaseball.com](mailto:hostfamily@gnomesbaseball.com)

