

Elida Softball Cocoa Beach Trip Proposal

April 4th-8th, 2025

The Elida Softball Program would like to participate in the Space Coast Spring Training Program in Cocoa Beach, Florida for the 2025 season. Benefits of this program include practices and games in weather that allows for proper competition, team bonding, and an opportunity for travel that players may not otherwise receive. The proposed dates for the trip are April 4th-8th, 2025. Players would be excused from school on Monday April 7th and possibly Friday April 4th, depending on times for travel accommodations. Tuesday April 8th is a scheduled professional development day with no school for students, so players would not miss any school that day. If approved, this trip would take place every four years, giving players one opportunity to take part during their high school career.

Space Coast Spring Training would serve as the company coordinating this trip. There are multiple teams in Ohio that use Space Coast Spring Training, including Wapakoneta High School. The softball team at Wapakoneta High School has used this company for several trips and has had excellent experiences each time. Other schools in Ohio also take part in similar trips through other programs. There are several benefits of using Space Coast Spring Training. The program provides an unlimited amount of games and practices while at Cocoa Beach, and all costs for each are included. Opponents and umpires for games would be scheduled for us. The program books the lodging at Days Inn Cocoa Beach in Port Canaveral for the team, which also includes breakfast each day. The quote for the trip reflects these pieces. Additionally, using Space Coast Spring Training will give us access to discounts for dining and transportation rentals once we are there.

Travel and transportation for the trip includes flying to Florida, then van rental once we have arrived. The team would book flights using the group rates through Southwest Airlines. Vans would then be rented through Carl's Van Rental, a company in Orlando that works with Space Coast Spring Training. Vans would be driven by the coaches as needed.

The softball program would send both the Varsity and Junior Varsity teams to Cocoa Beach for spring training if approved. The maximum number of girls that will be in the program is 24, therefore all quotes are based on that number. Four coaches would also attend, as well as one administrator, Dave Evans. With these adults and at least one parent chaperone, this would allow the player to chaperone ratio to be no more than 4:1, a number that allows for maximum supervision and is similar to other trips taken by Elida groups. The cost of the hotel for coaches is covered in the expenses list, with a room each for head coach Hillary Overholt and assistant Mike Eilerman, and a room to share for JV coach Dave Sumption and volunteer coach Katelynn Jones (father/daughter). A room for an administrator is not included in the quote and would need to be covered by the Athletic Department or Boosters. Additionally, flights for the coaches are not included in the expenses. This will be paid for by the coaches themselves or sponsors. Chaperones would be responsible for paying the cost for their own flight and hotel stay.

This trip will not only provide players with the opportunity to play softball, it will also allow for educational and other experiences. Players will visit the Kennedy Space Center in Cape

Canaveral with a variety of exhibits featuring U.S. astronauts, space shuttles, and more. It is possible that we could also watch a NASA or SpaceX rocket launch depending on their 2025 schedule. Players would also participate in a sunset dolphin and wildlife boat tour through Cocoa Beach Dolphin Tours. Finally, we would also visit the Merritt Island National Park and Wildlife Refuge.

While this type of trip has many expenses, we believe that we would be able to completely cover the cost of the softball activities, lodging, and travel through fundraising and the current money in the Elida Softball Parents Association fund. The only cost to players would be lunch and dinner each day. Due to this, we are setting the cost for players at \$150, to be paid prior to the trip. The \$150 dollars would be used to cover two packed lunches (purchased at a grocery store and put together by chaperones to save cost), one food court lunch, and dinner out each day. Players would not need to bring any cash with them on the trip unless they wanted to purchase souvenirs. Please see the detailed list for the cost of the trip and how this would be covered.

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Expenses:

- \$10,028.80 (Space Coast Spring Training Program)
- \$2,400 (Van Rental)
- \$8,400 (approximate airfare for 24 players)
- \$1,800 (Kennedy Space Center Tickets, Cocoa Beach 1,000 Islands: In Search of Wildlife Tour Tickets, Entry to Merritt Island National Park)

= \$22,628.80

Trip Payments and Fundraising:

- \$2,000 (Sara's Sweets Fundraiser Fall 2024)
 - Amount based on profits made by groups of similar size
- \$1,000 (OHSAA Tournament Parking at Elida High School Fall/Winter 2024-2025)
 - Amount based on profits from previous years
- \$8,500 (Purse Bingo January 2025)
 - Amount based on information from Elida groups hosting similar events
- \$3,500 (Bat Raffle February-March 2025)
 - Amount based on sales from previous years
- \$7,628.80 (Elida Softball Parents Association)
 - Fund currently has \$10,180 and can cover a larger amount if needed

= \$22,628.80

With the fundraising work, there would be minimal cost to players for this trip as we would need only \$150 dollars for food. Additionally, the estimates on the fundraising profits are on the low end so that we are fully prepared for all costs. We believe that we can make more than listed through these fundraisers, and would also be able to obtain sponsorships from local businesses.

Itinerary

This is a basic itinerary of the activities that we would complete each day. We will not have exact times or locations of games until we book the trip and Space Coast Spring Training can schedule games for us. We have given our best estimates on times based on information provided to us from the company.

Friday April 4th

- Depart from Columbus, OH on Southwest Airlines
- Arrive in Orlando, FL and transport to Cocoa Beach with rented vans
- Dinner: Cocoa Beach Fish Camp Grill
- Evening practice

*Flight times are not yet available for this date, so time for additional activities is unknown.

Saturday April 5th

- 7:30 Breakfast at hotel
- 8:15 Transport to softball field for warm ups
- 10:00 Game 1
- Packed lunch between games
- 12:00 Game 2
- 1:45 Transport to hotel
- 2:30-4:30 Cocoa Beach (walk from hotel)
- Return to hotel to shower, change, etc.
- 5:40 Depart for Cocoa Beach Dolphin Tours
- 6:00-7:30 Cocoa Beach Wildlife Dolphin Tour
- 7:45 Dinner: Long Doggers (next door to tour area)
- 9:15 Transport to hotel for bed

Sunday April 6th

- 8:00 Breakfast at hotel
- 8:30 Transport to Kennedy Space Center
- 9:00 Kennedy Space Center
 - Lunch at Kennedy Space Center Food Court
- 1:30 Depart for hotel- change for game
- 2:30 Depart for softball field
- 4:00 Game
- 5:30 Transport to hotel to shower, etc.
- 6:45 Transport to dinner

- 7:00 Dinner: Coconuts on the Beach (includes game room and other activities)
- 9:00 Transport to hotel for bed

Monday April 7th

- 7:30 Breakfast at hotel
- 8:00-9:00 Morning practice
- Shower, etc.
- 9:45 Transport to Merritt Island National Park
- 10:30 Merritt Island National Park and Wildlife Refuge
- Packed lunch at Merritt Island
- 1:30 Depart for hotel- change for game
- 3:00 Depart for game
- 5:00 Game
- 6:30 Transport to Hotel to shower, etc.
- 7:30 Dinner: Pier 62 Oceanfront Restaurant (walk from hotel)
- 8:45 Cocoa Beach Boardwalk
- 9:30 Return to hotel for bed (walk)

Tuesday April 8th

- Breakfast at hotel
- Transport to Orlando, FL and fly to Columbus, OH
- We are hoping to get an early morning flight home and this would be only a travel day. If this is not possible, we would have a morning practice and additional activities as needed.

Ohio Schools Participating in Similar Softball Trips

Ohio Schools that use Space Coast Spring Training

Cleveland Heights
Hilliard Bradley
Perrysburg
Columbus Academy
Gahanna Lincoln
Piqua
Swanton
Pickerington North
Perrysburg
Wapakoneta
Oak Harbor
East Wood
Bellair
Delaware Hays
Westerville Central
Olentangy Berlin
Loveland

Northwest Ohio Schools that travel for Softball using a different program*

Holland Springfield (Florida)
Maumee (Florida)
Toledo Start (Florida)
St. Ursula (Florida)
Western Reserve (Myrtle Beach)
Otsego (Myrtle Beach)
Toledo Christian (Pigeon Forge)
Elmwood (Myrtle Beach and Pigeon Forge)
Mansfield Madison (Myrtle Beach)
Arcadia (Myrtle Beach)
Bryan (Pigeon Forge)

*This is not a comprehensive list, but these schools have contacted me about experiences that they have had with traveling out of state for softball.

Space Coast Spring Training Quote

Hello Coach Overholt,
Hope all is well. Thank you for speaking with me and your interest in the 2025 Space Coast High School Softball Spring Training in the beautiful Cocoa Beach Florida area.

Below are the sampled quotes that are offered to our 2024 teams for a 4 night stay with 24 players and 4 coaches arriving in 2025.

Beachside Hotels

Days Inn Cocoa Beach - Port Canaveral - Outside Corridor

Has an outdoor pool and a fitness center. Complimentary wireless Internet access is available in public areas. Additional amenities include barbecue grills, laundry facilities, and coffee/tea in the lobby. Complimentary self parking is available onsite for guests. Guestrooms include 2 queen beds, hair dryers and irons/ironing boards. Guests can use the in-room complimentary wireless and wired high-speed Internet access. All units feature microwaves, refrigerators, and coffee/tea makers. Housekeeping is offered daily. **FREE USE OF BATTING CAGES NEXT DOOR AT THE BEST WESTERN HOTEL COCOA BEACH.**



The prices in your discounted quote below include all hotel rooms and accommodations, **hot breakfast per day per team member** at your hotel, unlimited scheduled games matching your team up against other similar team/school programs, unlimited practices, quality umpires and professional scheduling, includes all field use and pre-game prep/maintenance, field lights for night play, local restaurant discounts, special rates for discounted travel vans and vehicles, theme park discounts and any other logistical assistance that we can provide to help make your trip an enjoyable one.)

4 Night Stay

24 players (6 rooms) x 4 nights x \$80.95 = \$7,771.20
2 coaches (1 room to share) x 4 nights x \$100.95 = \$807.60
2 coaches (2 private rooms) x 4 nights x \$150.00 = \$1200.00
Registration Fee = \$250.00
Subtotal = \$10,028.80
12% sales and tourism tax = \$1,203.46
Total = \$11,232.26

As you will see from the above quote and hotel amenities, this cannot be beat.

All Quotes Good for 14 Days - Prices Subject To Change

Attached are the 2024 High School Softball Application and Schedule Request Forms. Please [CLICK HERE TO SEE THE VIDEO ABOUT COCOA BEACH SPRING TRAINING](#).

If your school is not exempted from paying the **Florida Sales and Tourism Tax**, please [CLICK HERE](#) to print out the application and instructions and have your business

office fill it out, mail to the State of Florida to receive a Sales Tax Exemption Certificate. Once your business office receives the certificate, please fax me a copy and I will remove the 12% Florida Sales and Tourism Tax from your invoice. This is a big savings.

For Transportation Savings please Carl's Van Rental. Team can email their details to: info@carlsvanrentals.com or heatherc@carlsvanrentals.com or call the Orlando office at: 407-856-8866 or 800-565-5211. Please speak to Heather or Jay. Please make sure you reference Brevard Production when they call or email so we can be sure to put the correct reference code on the reservation.

For airfare savings please contact Barbara at Go Travel, their phone number is 407-774-7730 or email barbaram@gotravel.com.

We have discounted Universal Studios Theme Park Tickets for their families and friends.

We have no spectator fees for the families and friends or parking fees.

We will gladly send a tourism packet to hand out for you and your parents to review.

Coach Overholt, please contact me so that I can answer any questions you might have and add your team to our roster of teams for 2025.

Thank you again for your interest in coming to the 2025 Space Coast High School Softball Spring Training.

Sincerely,

Terri Joseph

Space Coast Spring Training Housing

"36 Years Strong"

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www.CocoaBeachSpringTraining.com

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