



# Press Release/Public Service Announcement

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **SPAR KICKS OFF SUMMER MIDNIGHT BASKETBALL LEAGUE**

**"IT'S MORE THAN JUST A GAME!"**

**SHREVEPORT, LA,** May 28, 2010: SPAR Athletics Division kicks off its 4th Annual Summer Midnight Basketball League on June 7<sup>th</sup> which runs through July 24<sup>th</sup> for girls, boys and young adults ages 10-24. The purpose of the league is to give youth and young adults an opportunity to learn life skills and athletically compete in a supervised, safe environment during summer evenings.

Games will be held at Princess Park, Bill Cockrell, Airport Park, A.B. Palmer, Lakeside, and Southern Hills gyms on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday with youth starting at 7:00pm and adults playing until midnight. Each team will play eight (8) games followed by a post season tournament. 69 teams are participating this summer. Age divisions include:

10-Under      16-Under  
12-Under      24-Under

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14-Under

The primary goal of the program is to provide core values and life skills training that will prepare youth for challenges they will face later in life. To accomplish this goal, all 18-Under teams and below will be required to attend a 30 minute workshop presentation prior to their scheduled game.

Presentation topics may include:

- substance abuse prevention
- peer pressures
- power of choice
- personal hygiene education
- conflict resolution
- anger management
- bullying
- character values
- self-esteem
- teen gang prevention
- dating violence
- healthy relationships
- domestic violence awareness
- diversity
- understanding your rights and responsibilities
- HIV/AIDS prevention
- academic success
- job readiness

The following agencies have committed to participate as workshop presenters:

- First Tee
- Gingerbread House Bossier/Caddo Children's Advocacy Center
- K.C.S. Railroad
- Louisiana Cancer Control Partnership
- Norwela Council - Boy Scouts of America
- Shreveport Fire Department
- Shreveport Police Department

- Supportive Integrated Services
- Caddo Sheriff Department
- Southern University - Shreveport
- Philadelphia Center
- Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office- Crime Prevention
- Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office Life Skills - "Things Along the Way, A Life Journey."