



# MEET OUR

# 2022 BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL LITTLE LEAGUE® COACHES OF THE YEAR



## COACH OF THE YEAR - BASEBALL

Coach Antonio Colon began his baseball career at the age of four, playing in recreational leagues throughout his teens. His love for baseball was reignited when his son started playing with Milwaukee’s Lake Park Little League in 2016. However, this time Antonio was coaching, instead of playing.

*“Coach Antonio focuses on facilitating individual growth while emphasizing that baseball is a fun activity, regardless of the weather or the score,” says his fellow coaches and team parents.*

Coach Antonio is admired by all for always demonstrating honorable sportsmanship and fostering a culture of respect for teammates, opponents, umpires, fans, families, and coaches.

As a coach, Antonio’s philosophy is rooted in teaching his players to not focus on winning or losing but instead focus on putting their hearts into having fun, trying their best and growing from mistakes.

As the 2022 Coach of the Year, Coach Antonio hopes to continue to teach his players to be accountable for their actions, stay kind and humble and to persevere when things don’t go as planned.

Congratulations to Coach Antonio Colon of Lake Park Little League!

## COACH OF THE YEAR - SOFTBALL

Affectionately known by parents, players and members of the community for “bringing the joy,” Coach Joy Magnabousco is not only the Coach for Manasquan-Brielle Little League, she is also the Director of Softball for the league and the District Softball Coordinator for New Jersey District 11.

Coach Joy started her career 12 seasons ago as a way to give back to her community. She runs free clinics, coaches Minors, Junior and Senior League teams, and always fills-in when needed. As a coach, Joy’s philosophy is to instill hard work, hustle and pride in order to demonstrate to players that anyone can achieve their goals.

*Coach Joy has been coaching for the past 12 seasons for the Manasquan Little League softball program and became a coach to give back to the community’s children. When it comes to coaching, her philosophy is to help her athletes develop skills that can be used in the game and in their daily lives and have fun while doing it.*

Coach Joy has not only made a lasting impact on her players throughout the years, but also on the entire community. By arming her athletes with the values of teamwork and respect, she works to create a positive environment for her players. As this year’s Coach of the Year, Coach Joy will continue being a positive mentor for her community to help players win both on- and off-the field.

Congratulations to Coach Joy Magnabousco of Manasquan-Brielle Little League!

# HONORABLE MENTIONS



**BASEBALL HONORABLE MENTIONS**

Coach Ramon Santiago of Mclean Little League  
Coach Garr Stephenson of Del Mar Little League



**SOFTBALL HONORABLE MENTIONS**

Coach April Stropich of Escanaba Little League  
Coach Cody Davenport of Lytle Little League





# HOW TO WIN BOTH ON- AND OFF-THE-FIELD

## ACCORDING TO THE 2022 LITTLE LEAGUE® COACHES OF THE YEAR!

### HOW TO BE AN IMPACTFUL MENTOR



*“Treat everyone on your team equally because each player is unique in their own way. Get to know who they are on and off the field and show that you are interested in them as a person, not only as a player. Most importantly, be a positive mentor, be silly, be humble and be their #1 fan!” - Coach Joy*

*“Everyone has something to offer as a coach and leader. Don’t think that a*

*limited knowledge of the sport or lack of coaching experience should stop you from volunteering. Just like the players, coaches and leaders will also learn as they go. The journey through a season of growth and development is a special experience.”*

*- Coach Antonio*

### HOW TO INSPIRE YOUR PLAYERS TO BE THE BEST THEY CAN BE

#### Coach Antonio’s Top 3 Pieces of Advice:

- It’s not about what happened on the last play, it’s about getting ready to make the next one even better.
- Always try your best and play to win but winning isn’t everything.
- Have FUN!

#### Coach Joy’s Top 3 Pieces of Advice:

- It’s all about having fun! Enjoy the Journey.
- Team comradery is key! Treat all your teammates with respect. Always be kind and be the teammate you would want on your team.
- Be confident and stay positive!



### HOW TO TEACH PLAYERS WHAT MATTERS THE MOST



*“Although losing a game can be a tough challenge, it’s important for all athletes to learn that good sportsmanship is essential to being a great player. One team has to win and one team has to lose, so if you play your best and give 110% as a team, you are already winners and the score won’t even matter. Most importantly, always be a gracious winner!” - Coach Joy*

*“I teach the kids not to focus on winning or losing. We play the game to win and be competitive, but our ultimate goals are having fun, trying our best and learning from our mistakes.” - Coach Antonio*



**Do you know a Little League Coach who inspires kids to be the best they can be, both on- and off-the-field? Follow Lance on Instagram to submit your coach for the 2023 Coach of the Year award next season!**