



Vermont Rockets Fastpitch Softball Club

September 23, 2024

The Rockets took the field for their 30th season this summer, providing an opportunity for softball players from Vermont to participate in a highly competitive atmosphere against the best teams in the northeast. The original Rockets team competed at the 18 and under level, and in 2002 the Rockets added a second team made up of players 16 and under. The Rockets expanded in 2016 adding a team at the 14 and under level and also added a 12 and under team in 2020. In 2024 we expanded to 7 total teams!

In the summer of 2025, our 7 teams will travel to tournaments throughout New England and will be hosting our own tournaments in the St. Albans, VT area in June and July.

The Rockets were founded in 1995 by St. Michaels' pitching coach Ralph Halbach. Ralph donates countless hours tutoring pitchers from all around the state, and even in northern New York State. In fact, Ralph was honored for his efforts in 2005 by the Vermont Lake Monsters, being elected to the Lake Monsters' Vermont Sports Community Hall of Fame – one of the first eight inductees to be so honored!

Players on the teams have come from throughout Vermont. They have come from as far as Derby, St Johnsbury and Barre, but most of the players are from Franklin and Chittenden counties. Many of our players have moved on to play in colleges. Rocket players and alumni have played for many college programs – Division I programs Georgia Southern and UVM, many DII and DIII programs – Kutztown University, St. Michaels (two players are in the St. Michaels hall of fame), Wesleyan, Merrimack, Castleton St., Johnson St., Bentley, Bryant, Norwich, RIT, Russell Sage, Endicott, Thomas, UNE and St. Lawrence as well as various Club teams at the college level.

The Rockets players are traditionally selected by invitation only – an open tryout was held for 2024 due to another organization dissolving and players needing a place to play. We believe it is an honor to play for the Rockets and we expect the best behavior from our players, parents, fans and coaches, both on and off the field. The Rockets provide rooms and meals for players and coaches while traveling to tournaments – we do this to instill camaraderie and to break down any school “prejudices” that may exist between players from rival high schools. We believe this teaches athletes how to compete at a high level while still respecting their opponents.

As you might imagine, the cost of putting teams and coaches on the field with the proper equipment, proper certifications, required insurance, etc. has grown significantly over the past 30 years – and the costs of hotels, tournament registration fees, insurance, etc. have certainly all kept pace as well. The Rockets total budget remains over \$40,000. There are no paid employees, and all coaches and administrators are volunteers. We do provide the coaches' team shirts and hats, as well as pay for a portion of their hotel rooms at travel tournaments. However all other expenditures go directly to defraying the cost of registration fees for the players, which we have been able to maintain at a maximum of \$550.

If your business is in a position - and is generously willing - to donate to our group, it would be greatly appreciated. If you should have any questions, or require any further information, please feel free to contact me by one of the means listed below. The Rockets are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, registered with the IRS and the state of Vermont (a copy can be supplied).

Thank you very much for taking time from your busy schedule to generously consider a donation.

Sincerely,

Connie Sheets - Vermont Rockets Treasurer
20 Point of Tongue,
Alburgh, VT 05440
802-578-7868 (Cell)
vermontrockets@gmail.com

Re: Georgia Beach use by Vermont Rockets

From Vermont Rockets <vermontrockets@gmail.com>

Date Thu 1/30/2025 8:37 AM

To Georgia Town Administrator <administrator@townofgeorgia.com>

Cc Tom Moore <tmoore@kamik.com>

 1 attachment (119 KB)

VermontRockets_DonorLetter.pdf;

You don't often get email from vermontrockets@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning Stacy,

Thank you for getting back to me and appreciate you getting this on the agenda.

I have attached a copy of our current 'donor/sponsor' communication in hopes that it is similar. Please let me know if there is any further information I can provide.

I have also provided answers to the questions you posed below.

1. What are the proceeds raised used towards? **ROCKETS: The money raised during the tournament weekends goes towards defraying the cost of registration fees for the Rocket families.**
2. Are other city/ towns waiving fees? **ROCKETS: Although the initial communication did not specifically request waiving of fees for the tournament weekends, any consideration is greatly appreciated. We also utilize the St. Albans Bay Park fields as well as the softball field at Collins Perley and both do charge a minimal fee for field use.**
3. Are any little league games displaced for this tournament? **ROCKETS: We continue to work hand in hand with Little League to avoid conflicts during our tournament weekends so do not anticipate any issues.**
4. Would you require access to the snack bar? **ROCKETS: We do request access to the snack bar.**
5. You would provide porta potties at your cost for the event, as our bathroom facilities can't sustain proper operation for large groups/events? **ROCKETS: We have obtained porta potties in past years and are absolutely able to accommodate this request.**
6. Anticipated crowd for these events is? **ROCKETS: Attendance can change throughout the day but we estimate between 100-125 at any given time.**

Thank you,
Connie Sheets - Vermont Rockets

On Tue, Jan 28, 2025 at 3:43 PM Georgia Town Administrator <administrator@townofgeorgia.com> wrote: