

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, READ!

2026 USPBL Reading Program Information

The USPBL is a developmental professional baseball league for Major League Baseball entering its eleventh season this summer at UWM Field (formally Jimmy John's Field in Historic Downtown Utica). The USPBL powered by Mortgage Matchup is comprised of four teams that all play at UWM Field the Utica Unicorns, the Eastside Diamond Hoppers, the Westside Woolly Mammoths, and the Birmingham Bloomfield Beavers!

What is the USPBL Reading Program?

This is an incentive driven program designed to encourage students to read more. The objective for each student is to "hit a home run" by meeting certain goals and requirements during the month of March. Educators will work with students to set the requirements and goals according to their reading level.



Why Participate?

The USPBL Reading Program is a fun way to encourage reading development in students. Every student that "hits a home run" receives a free ticket to attend a 2026 baseball game at UWM Field, where they will be honored on the field with all of the students who completed the reading program. In addition, educators receive a free ticket for assisting with the program, and family members of students are offered discounted ticket options.

Exciting for 2026!

Feel apart of the action and experience our pre game on the field! When coming to a USPBL game you will be able to go onto the field for a pre game parade around the warning track. Also don't forget to get your Reading Program badge at our kids club as well!





HOW TO SIGN UP!

1. Register your school online when enrollment opens on January 1st!
2. Set reading requirements based on your school's reading program.
3. Track students progress during National Reading Month.
4. Distribute ticket instructions and enjoy using your complimentary ticket!

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Fun Facts about the USPBL

68,000+ students across Southeastern Michigan participated in our Reading Program in 2025!

- 70-game season

- 52 players signed by Major League Organizations

- Multiple plays featured on ESPN's Top 10 Plays

- All games broadcasted on the USPBL Network

- USPBL Dance Crew performs at all games

- JJ, the Field General, our resident bat dog, is at all games and is the ultimate star of the show!

- Approximately 1,000 groups have held outings at the ballpark

- Over 1,000 charities and non-profits have leveraged the ballpark to raise funds for the causes

Questions?

Contact Community Relations Manager - Noah Theiler

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What Others Have To Say About The USPBL Reading Program



- “Our students have enjoyed participating and we look forward to another great opportunity to participate in!!”

Kim Kroll

- “Our students loved the program last year and we have a lot of families participate and get tickets!”

Jennifer Linn

- “Really loved participating in the program last March.”

Rebecca Koch

- “Our kids loved the reading program!”

Tammy Chinn

- “Our school enjoyed the USPBL Reading Program, even at the middle school level. It's a great way to encourage students to read. The free ticket to a game was an awesome reward for all their hard work! I am looking forward to participating in the program next year!”

Amanda Piper



- “Our teachers greatly appreciated the program and for those children who did read their assigned amounts to earn their tickets (each teacher assigned different tasks), it was a nice, new reading incentive program compared to those we have done in the past!”

Cindy Wyckoff

- “I loved the simplicity and the freedom of the program. Each teacher was able to decide what was developmentally appropriate for their grade level.”

Anissa Saad

- We loved participating in the program! I know it was a big draw for a lot of kids to read extra!”

Lisa Mele

- “This is an awesome program for kids.”

Devon McCormick

- “Thank you and USPBL for running the March Reading Program. It makes my job so much easier; I can’t thank you enough.”

Jackie George

- “We really enjoy the USPBL Reading Program and will definitely be interested again this year. We liked the ticket redemption method this year and that there were several dates for our busy families to pick from. Our young children enjoyed the way we set it up as well as moving their names around the bases as they read at home. My family is a huge fan of the Jimmy John’s ballpark, and I am so happy to share your amazing park with my families.”

Jen Lusk

- “We enjoyed the program, and it was pretty easy on us teachers to implement it.”

Kelly Gianotti

