

Dear AOC Parents and Student Athletes:

If you have noticed, we have eliminated a number of fundraising events starting with the 2015-16 school year. We no longer sell t-shirts at the Arthur Fireworks Celebration, work the merchandise tents at Illini football games, or sell fruit during the Christmas season. I felt that many of you were a little burnt out from the numerous fundraisers, which, quite frankly, were not very lucrative for our athletic budget. We wanted to limit the amount of fundraisers by offering more efficient and fruitful fundraisers, but we need your help and support to make this happen.

To help serve this purpose, we will be holding the **Conquering Rider Serve-a-Thon**. Last season we held a Shoot-a-Thon that was very fruitful for us. However, I was hoping to find an event that served more of a purpose to our community and our students. God had been impressing upon my heart the need for our students to serve our communities and churches. The **Conquering Rider Serve-a-Thon** gives us the opportunity to serve while raising funds for the program.

***How will the serve-a-thon work?***

Junior Varsity and Varsity Student athletes will actively pursue donors that can give a one-time gift or pledge a certain amount of money per hours served. There are pledge sheets for prospective donors to fill out. After collecting the completed pledge sheets from individuals and/or businesses, the students will look for opportunities to serve. They could volunteer time at church, rake leaves for a neighbor, clean bathrooms for a local business, etc. Get creative! Every time the student athlete volunteers their time, they simply need to fill out their Serve-a-Thon Time Sheet with the amount of time they served along with the signature of the individual they served. The student athlete will then collect the pledges from the donors based upon the number of hours served. The timeframe for the **Conquering Rider Serve-a-Thon** is August 16<sup>th</sup> through October 17<sup>th</sup> (for volleyball players) and August 16<sup>th</sup> through November 7<sup>th</sup> for all other JV and Varsity athletes. We are simply asking that the students have all funds collected and handed in on their respective conclusion dates.

***How much should I raise?***

We are asking all student athletes to raise \$200 for this fundraiser, but we encourage students to go above and beyond this number if possible. Also, for our homeschool athletes, all funds raised above the \$200 threshold will be credited towards the remainder of their athletic fee. If the student athlete prefers to not participate in the fundraiser, we simply ask that you make the \$200 donation to AOC athletics.

We greatly appreciate you as we understand all the sacrifices you make and the trust you give to AOC Athletics. We want to say a special thank you for this. As the athletic director, I would encourage you to actively participate in this fundraiser. This is not only a fundraiser – it is also an opportunity to share the love of God in our communities in practical ways. Go after it with the same effort we expect in the classroom and on the court. Thank you for your participation!

Sincerely,  
Greg Mast