



BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL LACROSSE

On October 26th, 2019 the boards of education for the two largest Bloomington/Normal public school districts joined together to create a cooperative boys and girls varsity lacrosse program. This unprecedented partnership between Unit5 and District 87 clears the way for over seventy boy and girl lacrosse athletes in our three largest public schools to compete together for an IHSA state lacrosse title beginning the Spring of 2020.

With the educational budgets running at or near deficit levels at both districts...funding could not be secured through the school districts. With the support of both boards of education, The Friends of Bloomington-Normal Lacrosse (FOBNL) has volunteered to help raise funds within our community to financially support 100% of the direct costs of both programs. This approach allows the districts to expand co-curricular activities for their student athletes without diverting funds away from existing educational programs.



ABOUT LACROSSE

- Lacrosse has been the fastest growing team sport in America over the last two decades and is the oldest sport native to North America.
- B/N has had its own youth lacrosse program since 2011 and has over 200 players in both the girls and boys programs, ranging in ages from 8-18.
- There are currently over 100 high-school varsity lacrosse programs within the state of Illinois, with 22 of them being 'co-op' teams similar to B/N Lacrosse.

ABOUT THE B/N LACROSSE CO-OP

- The co-op includes athletes from all three public high-schools: Normal Community High School, Normal Community West High School, and Bloomington High School.
- Program will include Girls Varsity, Boys Varsity and Boys Junior Varsity squads.
- The program will compete at the IHSA level, making them eligible for the state lacrosse tournament series.
- The Unit5 Athletic department will be handling administrative responsibilities on behalf of all participating high schools.



ABOUT FUNDRAISING

- The co-op is not funded by the school districts or by tax dollars -- these programs will need to be fully funded by private donations and fundraising activities coordinated by the Friends of Bloomington-Normal Lacrosse.
- The Friends of Bloomington-Normal Lacrosse is a parent-led, all volunteer organization so 99% of all funds raised go to directly support the co-op program.
- Friends of Bloomington-Normal Lacrosse is a registered not-for-profit in the State of Illinois and is a 501(c)(3) organization so all donations are tax deductible.

2019 -2020 FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$50,000

Our initial fundraising goal includes \$25,000 in one-time, start-up expenses (team equipment, uniforms, goals, helmets, etc.,) and \$25,000 in season expenses (bussing and transportation, field and competition fees, etc.,).

For more information on the progress we are making toward our fundraising goals, please visit our website at www.friendsofbnlacrosse.org or email us at friendsofbnlacrosse@gmail.com.