



HERSHEY JR. 'BEARS'



NEWSLETTER

Hershey House kicks off their season!

Our House Select Teams continue their winning ways with a 1st and 2nd place finish in the Travel Champs Halloween Howl.

Meet Josh Van Allen, a former travel player who found a new home with HJB House.

Need to raise funds for your team? Learn more with our fundraising feature.

2026 Skate-A-Thon is coming up on MLK weekend. Read more on how your team can help raises money for our organization.

**November 2025
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HJB House Program

The Hershey Jr Bears House Program is designed for players who wish to enjoy hockey in a less travel aspect and a more recreational environment. The program focuses on skill development, teamwork, and fostering a love for the game to new players.

The HJB House Program kicks off their season this month with multiple teams spread out between Squirts through High School. This season there are three teams each at the High School age level, Bantams, and Mites. The Squirts and Peewees are combined to form three teams. Games and practices are held at both the Giant Center and Hersheypark Arena.

Our Bear Bites program is now under the NHL/NHLPA "Learn to Play" program. Designed for children ages 4-10 years old, it introduces the game of hockey in a welcoming environment where they'll build skills, confidence, and friendships—both on and off the ice.

HJB House Selects

With the overwhelming success of our inaugural House Selects program, we now have two House Selects teams to compete at local tournaments. The 16U team, comprised from players from last season's 7 tournament championship team, continued their winning streak by winning the Halloween Howl. Our 14U team also did well during the same tournament, placing second. We look forward to seeing the continued success of both our House Selects teams!



Featured Player

When You Still Want to Play Ice Hockey but Also Want to Play Other Sports

Meet Josh Van Allen

Josh Van Allen has been playing hockey since he was a mite. His love for the game began as a toddler watching and cheering on his big brother on the ice. His interest and dedication to hockey grew to becoming a travel player himself on a competitive team.

Because of the competitiveness and travel schedule, Josh was unable to play any other sport he was interested in. He loves playing soccer for his school team. He also wants to try other sports too, like football and wrestling. Finding the Hershey Junior Bears allows Josh to be able to do both sports and open up the possibility to try others.

"Continuing with hockey was something we knew Josh wanted to do," says his mom, Jane Van Allen. "Finding HJB has allowed him to stay on the ice and also the soccer field. Thank you so much to everyone that continues to grow this program for the kids with multiple sport interests."

"The travel schedule was too much for me. It's nice to still be able to be on the ice, especially at the Giant Center." – Josh Van Allen

If you have a story suggestion or would like to feature your team, coach, or one of your players, email rex.burman48@gmail.com.



Team Fundraising

Is your team looking to raise funds for a tournament or pay for other expenses? Consider volunteering your team's parents with Hershey Entertainment. Work a food and beverage stand or as an usher at various events, such as a Hershey Bears game or a concert.* No experience is necessary as training will be provided. Past teams have raised as much as \$2,000!

These fundraisers not only help with immediate team expenses, but they also foster a sense of community and teamwork as families come together to support their team's needs. Team's receive 80% of funds raised with 20% given back to the general Hershey Jr. Bears fund.

*Must be at least 18 years old. For more information, contact Rex Burman (rex.burman48@gmail.com).



Announcements

Save The Date!
The 2025 Hershey Jr. Bears
Skate-A-Thon
Monday, January 19, 2026
Hersheypark Arena

The Hershey Jr. Bears annual fundraiser is 2 months away!

We are asking for each team to donate a gift basket for our annual Skate-A-Thon. Teams in the past have donated baskets with gaming consoles, entertainment tickets (Bears games, Hersheypark, etc), electronics, sports equipment, collectibles, food*, and gift cards (restaurants, groceries, etc), just as a few examples. Gift baskets will be raffled during the Skate-A-Thon.



*No bottles of alcohol

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