



**NEWS RELEASE
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July 25, 2012

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Local Host and Partners are Recipe for Exciting National Tournament

Raleigh Jaycees Host 2012 PONY Fastpitch National Championships

CARY, NC – The Raleigh Jaycees will host the Protect our Nation's Youth (PONY) Fastpitch Softball National Championships for girls in four different age groups July 27 – August 2. PONY Baseball and Softball is designed to "Protect Our Nation's Youth" by providing experiences in youth baseball and softball that will help young people grow into healthier and happier adults.

The Raleigh Jaycees, partnering with the Town of Cary (www.townofcary.org), the Town of Garner (www.garnernc.gov), and the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau (<http://www.visitraleigh.com>), are hosting the tournament for the sixth consecutive year. Andy Zeh, Raleigh Jaycees 2012 PONY tournament chair, exclaims that, "Our partners and volunteers have been working hard to make this an exciting sporting event for the Triangle area." Andy adds, "Building these relationships over the years has been helpful to the success of the tournament." These relationships make a big impact on the local economy; according to the GRCVB, the tournament is expected to bring more than \$2 million in direct visitor spending. Several local teams will be playing in the tournament, which will feature over 160 teams from the east coast, Quebec, and the Bahamas.

Tournament play begins on July 28 and ends in championship games on August 1 and 2. Games will be held at various fields throughout Cary, Holly Springs, and Garner. Daily passes may be purchased at field locations throughout the tournament (\$10 for NC residents, \$15 for non-NC residents). For more information about the PONY 2012 12U, 14U, 16U & 18U Fastpitch Softball National Championships visit pony.raleighjaycees.org.

About the Raleigh Jaycees:

Chartered in 1932, the Raleigh Jaycees is an organization dedicated to leadership development through community service. This all-volunteer, civic organization runs more than 75 community service and leadership development projects each year. The Raleigh Jaycees is an affiliate organization of the NC Junior Chamber, the US Junior Chamber and Junior Chamber International. Membership is open to anyone between 21 and 40 years of age. For more information visit www.raleighjaycees.org.

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