

Four Valley Youth Sport Programs receive a total of \$7,553 from AZSTA

GLENDALE, Ariz. (Aug. 6, 2007) – The Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority (AZSTA) has awarded \$7,553 to four valley youth sport programs for new equipment and uniforms.

The Mesa Association of Sports for the Disabled (MASD) received \$2,000 to assist in the purchase of equipment, benefiting the Adaptive Kayaking program. This program involves individuals with physical disabilities including amputees, the blind, Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida and spinal cord injuries. Current equipment consists of single rider kayaks, the new equipment will include double rider kayaks and will enable the individuals the opportunity to paddle with the help and direction of a coach. This equipment will be utilized by more than 80 participants each year during a four-month period.

The Chandler Youth Baseball League received \$800 to assist in the purchase of a new pitching machine for the 7-8 year-old (Pinto) division. The league uses pitching machines since the kids are too young to pitch to themselves. The machine they currently have is over 10 years old. The Pinto Division typically has 14-16 teams in the spring season and 6-8 teams in the fall, with an average of 12 kids on each team, the new machine will benefit over 250 kids each year.

The American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) Region 310, received \$2,453 to assist in the purchase of new equipment including soccer goals and

training equipment. The organization currently has equipment and much of the equipment needs replacement or updating. The new equipment will be utilized by over 700 youth in Glendale, Peoria and Phoenix and can be checked out by each team.

Scottsdale's Pop Warner Football Hawkeye Team received \$2,300 to assist in the purchase of 35 new uniforms for 100 kids in the program. Currently many of the players are on scholarship and cannot afford the cost of new uniforms. After years of receiving jerseys handed down from other league teams, they now will be replaced and will be utilized for many years to come.

These awards are part of AZSTA's Quick Grant program, which grants funds to schools and non-profit organizations serving youth and amateur sports and demonstrate a financial need and benefit the local Maricopa community.

These are the first four quick grants AZSTA has approved for the fiscal year that began July 1. In the prior fiscal year, AZSTA supported 21 youth programs throughout the Maricopa County totaling, \$45,923. For more information about AZSTA and Youth and Amateur grants, go to www.az-sta.com.