



Fairfield County Visitors & Convention Bureau

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## **LANCASTER TO HOST 2010 AMERICAN LEGION STATE BASEBALL TOURNAMENT**

### **For Immediate Release**

The City of Lancaster will host 12 baseball teams from around Ohio this summer for the 2010 Ohio American Legion State Baseball Tournament. Gerald White, Director of Ohio American Legion Baseball, made the official announcement recently after a vote by the American Legion State Baseball Commission. The tournament will bring over 200 baseball players, age 17-19, along with coaches, umpires and tournament staff to Lancaster for a five-day double elimination tournament, running from July 26-30. In addition, the American Legion conducts a "Lead Off" banquet prior to the start of the event, which averages over 425 people in attendance. A total of 23 games will be played on three diamonds: Beavers Field, Lancaster High School and Fisher Catholic High School.

"We are extremely excited about hosting the 2010 American Legion Tournament here in Lancaster", said Al Beavers, local American Legion Baseball Manager. Beavers worked closely with the Fairfield County Visitors & Convention Bureau and local officials, particularly Mayor Dave Smith, to put together the proposal for the State Baseball Commission which resulted in the tournament being awarded to Lancaster. Greg Eyerman of the Visitors & Convention Bureau noted that the State Baseball Tournament averages the use of nearly 170 sleeping rooms annually, and also results in tournament participants impacting the local economy by spending money on food, fuel, and other necessities while they are in Lancaster.

The American Legion has sponsored American Legion Baseball since 1925. Since that time, over ten million teenagers have played American Legion Baseball. In a typical season, about 55% of all Major League Baseball professional baseball players played American Legion Baseball as teenagers, and nearly 90% of all college players. There are 55 players enshrined in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York who had played American Legion Baseball across the country while in High School

The goals of American Legion Baseball are the development of team loyalty, respect for the rules, individual character, fitness, good citizenship and leadership qualities in young people.

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