

Dear Northern Illinois Thunder Softball Players, Coaches, and their Families:

Believe it or not softball weather is just around the corner! In that spirit it's time to start planning for one of the highlights of the season – our thunder-wide weekend trip where all teams will play in the same tournament. For many years we went together to Quad-Cities, but this year we moving on to the USSSA Central Illinois State Championship in Mattoon, IL. Each team (12U, 14U, 16U, 18U-S & 18U-P) will be playing a minimum of four games over three consecutive days beginning Friday, June 18, and ending Sunday, June 20. Pool play will begin mid-late afternoon on Friday and since it's approximately a 3 hour drive (from Sugar Grove) please adjust your work schedules accordingly – more to come on this from your coaching staff but I wanted to give you a warning on what to expect..

In addition to the excitement of having all teams playing in the same tournament you will also be in store for some fun off the field as the entire organization will stay in the same hotel and have an opportunity to socialize with the thunder family during meals and free time. Below are the travel logistics so you know what to expect relative to tournament lodging, meals, and planned activities, as well as what actions you must take and by when:

- **Lodging:** Fairfield Inn & Suites, Effingham is where we will call home for the weekend. We have the whole property reserved for the Thunder family! This is a new property (less than two years old) and a short drive from the softball fields (less than 30 minutes South of Mattoon). Players and coaches' rooms have already been blocked for Friday and Saturday nights (and will be paid for by NI Thunder). **General room reservations are now being accepted for our organization until May 21st** (to secure the group room rate). Details can be found on the reverse side of this letter.

Note: Availability of rooms with two queen beds are limited as many of them are required to accommodate our players, however, most King rooms have a pull out sofa bed. For those desiring to arrive on Thursday, the same group rate will be available; however, coaches/players are only reserved for Friday and Saturday nights and if they want to extend their stay it is a personal expense.

→ **Meals:**

- Buffet breakfast included in room rates
- Friday Night – your parent rep(s) will be organizing a team dinner once the game schedule for the evening is available.
- Saturday Night BBQ -- an optional dinner has been arranged for Saturday night as a social opportunity to connect with other Thunder teams. **Preordering and prepayment must be received by May 14th to take advantage of this opportunity.** *Note: NIT does not pay for players or coach's meals.*

- **Recognizing our Very Important Players (VIPs):** Our Thunder tradition ... we request a **\$10 contribution per player – also to be paid by May 14th**. In turn, each player (our VIPs) will be greeted at the hotel with a special "welcome gift" when they arrive in their room.

Mark your calendars... Monday, June 14th at 6:00 p.m. there will be a mandatory player/parent meeting held at Waubensee Community College in Erickson Hall (Gymnasium) where final details about the trip and tournament schedule will be shared with everyone. Following the general meeting, teams will hold separate meetings to discuss team specific logistics. It is our intention that this will end no later than 7:30 p.m.

We hope the above information has sparked your enthusiasm for this great trip and has further inspired you to take immediate action by reserving your hotel room and sending in your meal order along with the \$10/player contribution to welcome our VIPs! If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to call me – (630) 466-1617 home, (630) 885-3090 cell.


Kela Davis



Central Illinois State Championship
June 18-20, 2010

Lodging Details

Fairfield Inn & Suites

1111 N. Henrietta Street – Effingham, IL 62401

**Reservations must be made no later than
May 21st to secure group rate!**

Call hotel directly at 217-540-5454 -- speak with front desk personnel (do not transfer to central reservations) mention "Northern Illinois Thunder Softball" (our Group Rate Organization Name)

\$89.00* per room, per night

Regular room rate \$99.00-149.00

Each room has mini refrigerator and microwave. Property has indoor pool and whirlpool.

* NIT group rate is applicable for Thursday night as well, for those desiring to arrive early.

**In order to accommodate players, only a limited number of queen-queen rooms remain available for other reservations, so first come, and first served! Most King rooms have a sofa bed so if you need one please make the request when reserving your room.

Optional BBQ Dinner – \$7 per person

(Held at hotel)

Saturday, June 19, 2010

Pulled Pork & BBQ Chicken

BBQ Sauces

Baked Beans

Ranch Pasta Salad

Veggies & Dip

Rolls & Butter

Lemonade

Dessert

Complete & return attached order form by May 14th



Central Illinois State Championship
June 18-20, 2010

Preordering & Prepayment Required

Completed order with payment by Friday, May 14th

Kela Davis
740 Carriage Hill Lane
Sugar Grove, IL 60554
(630) 466-1617

Checks payable to: Northern Illinois Thunder Softball

**Optional Saturday Night Meal
&
"Recognizing our VIPs"
Order Form**

Players and coaches dinners are not ordered or paid for by NIT

Order Placed by:

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone (____) ____-____

Player Name: _____

Softball Team (circle one): 12U 14U 16U 18U-S 18U-P

Saturday, June 19, 2010

BBQ Dinner - \$7.00 per person

Price includes Smoked Pulled Pork, Smoked BBQ Chicken, BBQ Sauces, Baked Beans, Ranch Pasta Salad, Veggies & Dip, Rolls & Butter, and Lemonade & Dessert

	Price Per Person	Quantity	Total \$
Saturday Night BBQ Dinner	\$7.00		

PAYMENT SUMMARY

Total \$ Saturday Night BBQ Dinner Ordered	\$
Total \$ "Recognizing our VIPs" (\$10/player) List Player Name(s):	\$
TOTAL PAID <i>(Checks made out to: NI Thunder Softball)</i>	\$