

## *Citizenship Through Sports Alliance: Focusing on Youth Sports*

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Parents and coaches participate with 40 million youngsters every year. Their influence is profound, and they have the best intentions, but all too often parents and coaches are poorly equipped to meet young players' real needs at this critical developmental stage.

National leaders in youth sport agree: parents and coaches are hungry for guidance on how to create a positive sports environment for their kids, but no more than 10 percent of parents and coaches receive even the simplest advice.

The Citizenship Through Sports Alliance is committed to promoting positive behavior in youth sports by harnessing the collective resources of major U.S. sports organizations to provide practical, proven tools for parents and coaches in youth sports.

### *What are the tools?*

**2005 Youth Sports National Report Card** – The national report card identifies simple measures essential to a positive, child-centered youth sports experience and assigns “grades” in each category for our nation’s youth-sports programs. Published annually, the report card is a springboard for other educational materials (developed in conjunction with national youth-sport experts) to encourage parents, coaches and administrators to evaluate their local programs and implement plans for improvement.

**2005 Youth Sports Community Report Cards for Youth Sports Leaders and Parents: How Does Your Youth-Sports Program Measure Up?** – a simple assessment tool, using the same guidelines outlined in the national report card, for parents and coaches in communities across the nation to evaluate youth-sport programs at the local level.

**Keep Your Child Involved in Sports** – a self-assessment tool for parents and coaches in youth sports to gauge their own behavior in terms of what’s best for their kids and the team.

**Through a Child’s Eyes ... A Parents’ Guide to Improving Youth Sports** – Key strategies and tips from national youth-sports experts, based on guidelines outlined in the national report card. Topics are wide-ranging, including coaches’ expectations, parents’ roles, positive reinforcement and the dangers of early sports specialization.

A coordinated national initiative – with leadership from youth-sports experts and partner youth-serving organizations – can maximize national impact and benefit millions of families looking for a positive youth-sport experience!



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*CTSA harnesses the collective power and expertise of the major sports organizations in America to promote **respect for self, others and the game.***

