# 2015 Affiliate Recognition

USA Ultimate is excited to recognize the hard work of local affiliates for their outstanding performance in fulfilling USA Ultimate's mission while expanding the sport within their communities. Each affiliate is offered the opportunity to recognize an individual league administrator as well as a key contributor.

The following individuals were recognized by USA Ultimate Affiliates for their work in 2015.

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## ALBANY ULTIMATE DISC ASSOCIATION

LEAGUE ADMINISTRATOR:
**Mitch Wohl**

Mitch is a reliable and effective leader. Mitch is a long-term board member who is very capable in handling the nuts and bolts of an ultimate organization. Whether it is laying out fields, working with volunteers or developing new programming, Mitch is going to be there for our community.

## ALTITUDE YOUTH ULTIMATE

LEAGUE ADMINISTRATOR:
**Hannah Jones**

Hannah is our AYU secretary, and she is the bomb! She keeps us all organized and stays on top of things that are hard to keep on. She has lots of great ideas and passion for the organization.

CONTRIBUTOR:
**Lisi Lohre**

She stepped up and took on the role of the Spirit/Music Coordinator and built the program from the ground up!

## ATLANTA FLYING DISC CLUB, JR.

LEAGUE ADMINISTRATOR:
**Helen Laseter**

Helen sets a very high standard for our organization and activities. As a result of her hard work, we deliver high-quality events and grow ultimate in our community. Helen has extensive experience with youth ultimate and happily shares her vast wealth of experience with new volunteers and teams, serving as a safety net for everyone and everything we do. As a manager, Helen empowers everyone in our organization to do their very best. Helen has been the key to youth ultimate's growth in Atlanta in the last four years.

CONTRIBUTOR:
**Ellen Powell**

Ellen has a no-nonsense approach to the hurdles that we encounter; she gets things done. Ellen single-handedly solved our online registration problem, a challenge that nagged us for years. Her technical and management skills allow us to focus on ultimate. Ellen is a joy to have as a teammate.

## COLUMBUS ULTIMATE DISC ASSOCIATION

LEAGUE ADMINISTRATOR:
**Brian Kowalski**

Brian has spent years as a summer league commissioner and has created many of the systems used to run this large league. He is now teaching his predecessors to implement these systems.

CONTRIBUTOR:
**Mark Jaworski**

Mark is our youth director and has worked tirelessly (and successfully) to grow and improve our high school league and youth summer league.

## CONNECTICUT ULTIMATE CLUB

LEAGUE ADMINISTRATOR:
**Scott Blankenburg**

Scott developed Ultitrax, which is a league roster and schedule management tool. This has allowed our club to offer seamless schedule management to the members of each league, provide roster updating, roster balancing (for indoor leagues where we create the teams), payment tracking, etc. Additionally, it links to our club's Facebook and Twitter pages and sends out updates when all scores for a day of games have been completed and sends out notifications on those mediums when we cancel games in the application. It has provided a great amount of automated organization while allowing our club in the direction of keeping up with modern technologies and utilizing the benefits of API integration across our website, registration pages, payment pages and social media pages. On top of all of that, Scott maintains the software, fixes bugs when needed and trains board members on how to manage the software, all free of charge.

CONTRIBUTOR:
**Dan Griffiths**

As former president, and current vice president, Dan has done an incredible amount of paper pushing and background management that goes unseen. He almost single-handedly took on all of the paperwork and filing needed to gain our 501(c)(3) status, working closely with USAU and continually updating the board members, who often had a glazed look in response as many of us, at least the newer board members (myself included), did not fully understand the importance of gaining that non-profit status. He is the board's largest advocate for growth in CTUL, our high school program, and has recently stepped down to VP to lighten his club responsibilities, so he can focus on the growth of youth ultimate programs in the state. He also did a heavy amount of lifting for hosting our summer league tournament and the high school states tournament, probably the two largest events the club hosted this year.

## DISCNY

LEAGUE ADMINISTRATOR:
**Isaiah Bryant**

Izzy single-handedly ran our youth summer league for the past four years and is moving on from that role, unfortunately. Izzy's enthusiasm was infectious, and the kids absolutely loved him and all the sessions he ran. He will be missed and will be hard to replace.

CONTRIBUTOR:
**Julie Sussman**

Webmaster, content keeper, McCarren pick-up administrator, photographer, organizer of the women's development league, etc. Creative, super responsible, great can-do attitude and full of great ideas. In sum, Julie is a gem!

## INDIANA ULTIMATE FOUNDATION

LEAGUE ADMINISTRATOR:
**John Rempel**

We only directly run the new youth league in Indianapolis. Our president, John Rempel, was the person who developed and was in charge of running the league. Any of the other leagues throughout the state are run by local organizations that we support.

CONTRIBUTOR:
**John Rempel**

I nominate John Rempel as the most valuable contributor. He was the single most influential person in the creation of our organization. While many others have had discussions about such an organization in the past, JR finally took the necessary steps to get leaders together and talking. He has taken on the responsibility of organizing and leading meetings for the IUF. He has organized and hosted multiple successful high school and club tournaments. He has also helped to lead multiple YCC teams to their best-ever finishes. He has volunteered a countless number of hours towards the growth of the sport in Indiana. I can think of no more deserving person, and any recognition that he receives will have been long overdue. *—Blake Vanderbush, IUF Treasurer*

## JACKSONVILLE ULTIMATE LEAGUE

LEAGUE ADMINISTRATOR:
**Dan West**

He has such a passion for the sport and is involved with every level of ultimate in Jacksonville. He runs adult league, captains a club team and volunteers with all youth-related events. He is also in the process of coordinating a potentially very large beach tournament.

CONTRIBUTOR:
**Josh Shepard**

Before recently departing to Orlando, Josh coached the UNF team, captained a Nationals club team and ran JUL operations. He will be sorely missed.

## MAINE ULTIMATE

LEAGUE ADMINISTRATOR & CONTRIBUTOR:
**Tommy Stoughton**

Tommy runs our spring high school league. Which includes, but is not limited to, scheduling 50 plus teams, communicating with the teams, securing fields, and on top of that, he coaches a high school team. Tommy is also the go-to guy whenever Maine Ultimate has a tournament and needs a schedule made. He is also a voice of reason when it comes to important matters and decisions at the board level.

## MINNESOTA YOUTH ULTIMATE

LEAGUE ADMINISTRATOR:
**Bruce Mebust**

MNYU President and tournament director for the Minnesota State Championships and YCC. Manager of our first employee.

CONTRIBUTOR:
**Dave Gregg & Chris Dascalos**

Volunteer Coordinators for the Minnesota State Championships and YCC.

## MISSOULA ULTIMATE FEDERATION

LEAGUE ADMINISTRATOR:
**Tom Perry**

Tom Perry has been an outstanding spring league coordinator and has improved the efficiency of our outreach and registration process. He is handing over the torch this year but has been a stalwart promoter of spring league for the past three years. He is neat.

## NEUQUA VALLEY ULTIMATE

LEAGUE ADMINISTRATOR:
**Heidi McCluskey**

Heidi McCluskey for coming on as treasurer and helping solidify the position. She has done an amazing job!

CONTRIBUTOR:
**Debbie Sokoloski**

Debbie is our new administrative assistant. She has been amazing helping out in every way possible!

## TRIANGLE ULTIMATE

LEAGUE ADMINISTRATOR:
**Jenny Wei**

Jenny Wei was hired as our Summer Youth Programs Coordinator and did an incredible job running and supporting 641 youth participants in our summer programs, including all five divisions of Youth Summer League, half-day summer camps, full-day summer camps, overnight summer camps and five Youth Club Championship teams, all while playing on an elite women's club team. Jenny's work paved the way for the organization to hire a full-time youth coordinator, proving that dedicated league coordinators often help contribute to the growth and expansion of programs – particularly youth programs.

CONTRIBUTOR:
**Jason Parker & Tom Munoz**

Jason Parker, Triangle Ultimate Board President, has done an incredible job leading the board as we grow and transition rapidly. In 2015, as an organization, we hired one seasonal staff member, one full-time staff member, affiliated with USA Ultimate, rebranded as Triangle Ultimate, restructured our membership structure and continued to achieve our mission of growing the quantity and quality of ultimate programs in the Triangle.

**Tom Munoz** – In addition to organizing and TDing our organization's hat tournaments, Tom is an active and engaged member of the board of directors. He played a critical role in the hiring process of our youth programs coordinator, leading the hiring committee. He also has been successful in developing relationships with funders, including securing a $2,000 grant from a corporate group in our region. His leadership is advancing the work of Triangle Ultimate, and his fellow board members recently elected him as vice president of the board.

## ULTIMATE PLAYERS LEAGUE OF AUSTIN

LEAGUE ADMINISTRATOR:
**Libby Cravens**

She has grown our youth leagues, both middle and high school. She has worked her budget efficiently, allowing us to give captains' packets to all the coaches which include discs, cones, agility ladders and more. She is also looking to take over a youth ultimate camp this summer. All of her hard work could not be more appreciated.

CONTRIBUTOR:
**Christopher Griego**

He has worked extremely hard to make sure that participants in our leagues have a great time, our leagues have great themes and each league has its own unique touches.

## VALLEY ULTIMATE

LEAGUE ADMINISTRATOR:
**Joe Costello**

He's been on the ground helping to run all of our events in an incredibly professional, efficient and friendly manner.

CONTRIBUTOR:
**Lee Feldscher**

He's been a steady powerhouse behind the scenes on just about all of our administrative improvements. He's our grant writer and USAU affiliate representative.