



Indian stickball game. Photo courtesy of Mississippi Department of Archives & History.



Photo courtesy of Museum on Main Street.

**“Sports and sports culture are an integral part of the social fabric of Mississippi. Beginning at the small-town grassroots level and extending to our universities and beyond, athletics help to bind our communities and state together.”**

— David Morgan, state coordinator



Little League Baseball Team, 1945, Brookhaven. Photo courtesy of Mississippi Department of Archives & History.

# HOMETOWN TEAMS COMES TO MISSISSIPPI IN 2016

Virtually every town and city in America has a sports history. Mississippi is certainly no exception with legendary athletes and sports teams hailing from Wiggins (Dizzy Dean) to Batesville (South Panola High Tigers). And even where major leaguers are not to be found, communities revel in their local teams, tenaciously supporting and defending them with unflagging allegiance. So what's your community's story and how does it relate to the theme of hometown teams across our country?

## What is it?

Hometown Teams is a traveling exhibit offered by the Museum on Main Street division of the Smithsonian Institute. It consists of seven free-standing display units incorporating photographs and text as well as numerous interactives ranging from basic flip charts to state of the art audio, video and even olfactory devices. Requiring a display area of a minimum of 800 sq. ft., the exhibit is designed for smaller venues, thereby achieving the goal of “Bringing the Smithsonian to Small Town America.”

## What's it about?

Sports are an indelible part of our Culture and Community. For well over one hundred years sports have reflected the trials and triumphs of the American Experience and have helped shape our national character. Whether it's professional sports or those played on the collegiate or scholastic level, amateur sports or sports played by kids on the local playground, the plain fact is sports are everywhere in America. Our love of sports begins in our hometowns—on the sandlot, at the local ball field, even in the street. Americans play sports everywhere.



Crystal Springs girls basketball team. Photo courtesy of Mississippi Department of Archives & History.

## How to Apply

To apply as a host site, please contact David Morgan at the Mississippi Humanities Council for full proposal requirements and terms of agreement. Proposals are now being solicited. These must be received at the MHC office no later than Friday, April 17, 2015.

### David Morgan

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For an exhibit overview please visit Hometown Teams at:  
[museumonmainstreet.org](http://museumonmainstreet.org)

For further hosting details please visit:  
[www.mshumanities.org](http://www.mshumanities.org)

## What's in it?

The seven free-standing display units in this exhibit include:

**1 Introduction** – Illustrating in images and text how hometown sports are not only a game but also an important influence on the lives and identities of Americans

**2 More Than a Game/Sports Everywhere** - Includes DVD cases showing real teams, towns, and stories behind some of the most famous sports movies

**3 Fields of Glory** – Visitors can use a stereoscope viewer to view famous sports venues representing a diverse group of sports

**4 Take Me out to the Ballgame** – Includes a tablet-based interactive filled with fight songs, videos of cheerleaders and marching bands, and photos of fun and unusual mascots

**5 Playing the Game** – With a case of trophies, medals and images of winning teams

**6 Root, Root, Root for the Home Team** – Providing an open display case in which the local community can show pages with parades and homecoming events from local yearbooks

**7 Sports Revolution** – A “Name that Sport” interactive presents emerging sports including SlamBall and underwater hockey

## Availability

The Hometown Teams exhibit will be displayed at 6 sites across the state between March and December of 2016 and the exhibit will remain in each location for approximately 6 weeks. Sites will be selected based on strength of proposal (including ideas for complimentary local exhibits and programming), adequate display space, ability to raise matching funds, and geographic location.

