

Advantages of Travel Hockey

- I. Coaching
 - A. High-quality coaches translates to superb instructors for your kids.
 - B. A majority of our coaches have played the game at a competitive level.
 - C. Our coaches are passionate and dedicated to the kids and the game.
- II. Practice Time/Quality of Practices
 - A. Practice twice weekly – approximately 65-70 hours of practice time per season.
 - B. Emphasis on the skills and fundamentals of the game.
 - C. Full ice practices instead of shared ice.
 - D. Players improve and develop skills in practice rather than during games.
 1. Players will perform during the game how they train in practice
- III. Games
 - A. Playing approximately 50 competitive games per season, your child will get an abundance of ice time.
 - B. Your son or daughter will play on a team where the talent level is more consistent.
 - C. The opportunity to travel twice a month with your family to other Midwest cities and watch your child play the greatest game around.
 - D. The friendships and bonds that are established throughout the season - not only among the kids but also the parents.
- IV. Expenses
 - A. How to minimize travel expenses
 1. Fund Raising
 - a. Ads in the travel program
 - b. Greenery sales
 2. Individual team fundraisers
 - a. Raffles
 - b. Car washes
 - c. Sponsorships
 - d. Outside donations
 3. Other potential cost savers
 - a. Car pooling
 - b. Shared hotel rooms
 - c. Selection of hotels (3 star vs. 5 star hotels)
 - d. Selection of meals (ie. Pizza delivery vs. steak house)

- V. Time Commitment
 - A. Practice time and home games.
 - B. Away games
 - 1. Drive time
 - 2. Meals
 - 3. Rink time and hotel
(Remember, this is quality time spent with your family and hockey friends)

- VI. Common **misconceptions** about DSM Travel Hockey
 - A. Gone every weekend
 - 1. Our Travel teams are gone approximately twice a month

 - B. It costs about \$8,000-\$10,000 to play travel hockey
(refer to expenditure chart below)

 - C. They travel too far and go to places like Colorado, North Dakota and Oklahoma City.
 - 1. Our Travel teams play the majority of their games in Iowa, Omaha, Kansas City, and Southern Minnesota.
 - 2. Our AA teams travel a little further to Chicago, Minneapolis, and Southern Wisconsin a few times each season.

- VIII. Quotes from our parents
 - A. "Watching my child play hockey is our form of entertainment."

 - B. "It's more enjoyable to watch my child play than going to other sporting events and watching total strangers."

 - C. "The camaraderie in travel hockey is stronger than that of any recreational league."

 - D. The most common quote from former travel parents – "I wouldn't trade these memories for anything."

Expenditure comparison chart between Travel and House/Select

	AA Squirt	A Squirt	Select Squirt	House	House/Select
Practice Hours	65	65	14	18	
Games	49	50	22	18	
Hotel Nights	15	8	3		
Miles	3960	2388	1200		
Ice, Referee and Tournament Fees	\$1290	\$1250	\$450	\$495	\$945

The above chart is actuals from the 2005/2006 season.