

King baton twirlers eye world event

By Jeff Doner

King City residents Alessia Spano and Mikayla DePietro are making some noise on the provincial and national baton twirling circuits and have their eyes set on the next step – the America Youth on Parade.

The AYOP is a world open competition for baton twirlers all over North America and the world. The annual event hosts hundreds of baton twirlers, including Alessia and Mikayla.

But they are looking for a little help in getting there. This year 12-year-olds will be heading to the University of Notre Dame in Indiana with their competitive team from the Stars United Baton Club in Richmond Hill.

“Alessia Spano and friend Mikayla DePiero (both 12 years old) have been twirling for about six years and since they have won their provincial championship, from that point on, they've become national champions,” said Alessia's mom, Sarah Spano.

In order to help raise some funds, Alessia and Mikayla have helped organize a rummage sale at the King City Arena on Saturday, May 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“We are putting together a rummage sale to help raise travelling funds not just for AYOP, but also for hopefully the world team in 2015. We're having the rummage sale here at the Kind City arena. It's going to be a great event. It's a non-profit club, so every little bit helps,” said Spanno.

Alessia said she is looking forward to the rummage sale and that it will be a big help in covering some of their travel to and from events.

“This rummage sale will help us with travelling costs to AYOP,” said Alessia. “Our coaches and parents are always supporting and sacrificing a lot of their own time and money and this is a way for our Stars to work together so we can attend the biggest competition of the year.”

Added Mikayla: “AYOP is special because we have a chance to compete against American teams and we have fun with our teammates,” she said.

When the pair first went down to the AYOP two years ago, they came in the top four out of 17 teams.

The club is currently accepting any donations for the rummage sale. If you would like more information or would like to make a donation to the rummage sale contact Sarah Spano at spano3@sympatico.ca or Kelly DePiero at kdepiero@rogers.com.