

### **3.07 - Financial Assistance**

The Board will establish fees that should enable most residents and others to participate in its programs. Regardless of the amount of fees that are charged, some individuals may be unable to participate due to economic hardship. Financial assistance will be provided through the “FUNding Positive Recreational Experiences” Program.

#### Mission

Strive to remove the financial barriers that may prevent Geneseo Park District residents & students in Geneseo School District 228, from enjoying Positive Recreational Experiences.

#### Eligibility

To be eligible to receive Financial Assistance, the applicant must

- be a resident of the District or be a student in the Geneseo School District.
- apply for assistance in writing using the application form provided by the District.
- provide evidence of need.
- for family scholarships, proof of dependency is required.

#### Types of Financial Assistance Available

- Payment Plan – The cost of annual memberships can be spread over a period not to exceed six months, Aquatic Center memberships must be paid in full by July 1<sup>st</sup>, and program payments cannot exceed past the program’s halfway point.
- Partial Payment – The amount of the scholarship will be determined on an individual basis. A maximum of \$200 will be awarded per person per year, or \$600 per family per year. A minimum amount per membership or program will be expected to be contributed from the applicant, this minimum amount is established annually.

#### FUNding Positive Recreational Experience Program Guidelines

- Funding is available only to those that reside within the Geneseo Park District boundaries or are a student in District 228.
- Financial assistance may not be available for all programs or services, including but not limited to contractual programs or with semi-private and private lessons.
- The amount of assistance may vary, depending on need and/or money available.
- There must be space availability in the program or class.
- Financial assistance for programs may be limited to one program per person per season. Applications must be completed seasonally for programs/classes/activities. Granting of approval does not ensure continued approval for succeeding programs or seasons.
- The portion of the participant’s payment is due before registration can be processed unless otherwise arranged.
- Delinquency on a participant’s portion of the payment may result in removal from program and ineligibility for future program participation and/or financial assistance.
- All registration/membership policies and procedures apply.
- Memberships must be actively used, or the membership will be cancelled, and the assistance will be refunded to the Foundation for redistribution to current applicants.
- Refunds will not be issued for memberships or programs registered for utilizing scholarship funds.
- Participants must fill out a Park District Financial Assistance application and be able to prove residency, financial need, and proof of dependents.

- Examples of proof of dependency can be done by a copy of birth certificate, the prior year's 1040 tax form, SNAP approval letter with dependent listed, the AllKids healthcare programs card listing dependents, Court ordered letter awarding guardianship, student record.
- All information on the Financial Assistance application must be true and accurate. Financial aid provided is legally recoverable if awarded based on false information.
- All information received will remain confidential and will not be made available to the public, to the extent permitted by law.
- Applying for a scholarship is not a guarantee that the request will be honored.
- Financial Assistance is available as funds permit.
- No full discounts will be awarded.

#### Application Procedures

- Complete the financial assistance application form. Return the completed form along with all required documentation to the Superintendent of Finance & Administration. Applications will not be reviewed unless all supporting documentation is included.
- Completed applications are reviewed in the order in which they are received.
- Upon receipt, the Superintendent of Finance & Administration will review the application and determine approval/ disapproval. If approved, the amount of Financial Assistance will be communicated to the applicant. The amount of assistance provided will be based on many factors, including funds available.
- Applicants for financial assistance will be notified within ten (10) days of receipt of application as to the status.
- Upon approval, applicants will register for programs through regular Park District registration procedures. Being granted assistance does not guarantee your placement in Geneseo Park District programs. If assistance is granted, you must follow current registration guidelines and pay your portion of the program fees to be enrolled in the program.
- The Financial Assistance Committee consists of the Executive Director, Superintendent of Finance & Administration and Managers and Superintendent of Recreation. The Financial Assistance Committee will review all exceptions and special requests while having the final discretion on granting assistance.

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