



## **Explore Nature's Scholarship Policy for Children's Educational Programs and Day Camps**

### **Policy Purpose**

Cincinnati Parks recognizes the importance of providing educational opportunities for all socioeconomic levels of city residents including those living in underserved, low income neighborhoods. The purpose of this policy is to set forth guidelines and criteria for the processing of these scholarships for Explore Nature programs and day camps. The Explore Nature Manager shall serve as the administrator for this policy and will account for tracking the scholarships and their fee reduction amounts. Cincinnati Parks will pay 80% of the fee amount and the participating family will pay 20% of the fee amount.

### **Eligibility**

1. Cincinnati Parks will grant partial through full scholarships to individuals that:
  - a. State the reasons for their need for the scholarship in electronic or printed communication.  
AND
  - b. Provide documentation of their need. Examples of the documented need can include:
    - Unemployment paperwork from a parent.
    - Medicaid benefits for the child receiving the scholarship.
    - Child's enrollment in the federal lunch program.
2. Cincinnati Parks will grant partial through full scholarships to individuals that are members or are associated with non-profit groups/organizations that:
  - c. Support active and veteran military families. Such organizations include but are not limited to AFTA, Armed Forces Tickets Association – Cincinnati.
  - d. Serve at risk youth. These include foster care families, local orphanages and children of parents in addiction and incarceration recovery programs. Such organizations include but are not limited to St. Joseph Orphanage and the Talbert House.
  - e. Serve youth in low income, underserved neighborhoods in the city of Cincinnati. Such organizations include but are not limited to Su Casa, CAIN and Boys & Girls Club.  
  
AND
  - f. Provide documentation of the child(ren)'s need as stated above.



3. Cincinnati Parks will not grant scholarships to:
  - g. Any religion, church, creed, or sectarian organization if the intent of the program is to promote religious purposes. (Religious organizations are not excluded from fee waivers; however, the purpose of the program must be as described in the definitions section of this policy and shall not serve to promote a religious message as the primary purpose). Religious organizations are not eligible for fee waivers for fundraising programs.
  - h. Political organizations and individual political campaigns.
  - i. Organizations that discriminate on the basis of race, gender, age, color, religion, disability status, marital status, sexual orientation or transgender status, or ethnic, national or Appalachian regional origin..
  - j. For-profit organizations in which the employees or officers will gain personal benefit/profit (i.e., a sales promotion).

### **Scholarship Review and Approval**

Once the scholarship request is received with the documentation showing the need, the Explore Nature management staff will communicate information on the educational program/day camp, the availability of spots and inquire what amount of the regular fee can be provided by the parent/guardian of the scholarship recipient.

If the fee reduction amount is acceptable to both parties and can be subsidized by donations, the scholarship is approved. Copies of the scholarship request, documented need and the completed registration with reduced fee is stored in a donation file and placed on the scholarship/donation spreadsheet. The Explore Nature Managers shall serve as the administrators for this policy and will account for tracking the scholarships and their fee reduction amounts.

### **Scholarship Availability**

The ability to offer scholarships is contingent upon available spots and funding constraints. Cincinnati Parks reserves the right to suspend or alter the Scholarship Policy based upon budget constraints to ensure the program is administered equitably to maximize the impact to eligible participants.



## **Definitions**

**Children's Educational Programs** – Community programs held in city parks or city Nature Centers which contribute to improved natural history and science education of Cincinnati's youth. .

**Day Camps** – Summer and seasonal programs held in city parks or a Nature Center with a mission to get children outdoors and excite their interests of being good environmental stewards.

**Scholarship:** Partial to full funding of a child's participation in fee based educational programs/day camps.

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