

Sterling Recreation Department
Scholarship Policy
Adopted February 16, 2016

Sterling Recreation Department's program scholarships offer assistance to eligible Sterling residents to ensure that all children and families have the opportunity to take part in recreational programming. Residents experiencing financial difficulty may apply. Residents can apply for a program scholarship by obtaining and completing a Scholarship Application, submitting documentation of enrollment in other subsidized programs as proof of qualification, and providing any further requested materials. Sterling Recreation provides funding for scholarships for Summer Lake Program and Winter Youth Basketball. Vendors may offer scholarship funding at their discretion. All available funding will be allocated by the Recreation Commission.

WHO:

1. Both applicant and recipient must be Sterling residents.

HOW:

1. Scholarship applications can be obtained at the Recreation office.
2. Applicants must provide one of the following:
 - a. Proof of participation in another subsidized program (school lunch, fuel assistance, Neighbor to Neighbor, etc)
 - b. Letter of recommendation from family, friend, clergyman, school official, health care professional or other
 - c. Last year's tax return
3. The Recreation Commission typically meets once a month. Scholarship requests will be heard at the meetings provided other agenda items do not take priority. Please check with the Recreation Director for the next meeting date.

POLICY:

1. Applicants can request funding for any program currently offered; however, the Recreation Department only provides funds for Summer Lake Program and Winter Youth Basketball. Vendors may provide scholarships at their discretion. If vendor scholarships are available, the Recreation Commission will award them to deserving applicants.
2. The Recreation Commission will vote annually to determine the monetary allotment of scholarships funds for each program for the coming year.
3. The "year" will be considered September 1-August 31
4. A set amount of funds will be available for Summer Lake Program and Winter Youth Basketball.
5. In a year, recipients are not eligible to receive more than one 100% scholarship or two 50% scholarships.
6. The Recreation Department cannot hold places for participants awaiting scholarship funds. It is the responsibility of the applicant to request funding in advance to program start dates.

- a. Scholarship applications for Winter Youth Basketball are due by October 1st. Scholarship applications for Summer Lake Program are due by June 1st.
7. Determination of scholarship award will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Requests are presented anonymously to the Commission. The Commission will evaluate the extenuating circumstance, the funds requested, provided materials and the applicant's history with the Department.
8. An applicant cannot receive funding more than two consecutive years. The applicant must wait one year before he/she are eligible to apply again.

DEFINITIONS:

1. Applicant: Individual that is submitting the Scholarship Application on behalf of themselves or for children to whom they are the parent or guardian of.
2. Recipient: Individual that will be enrolled in a program if funding is awarded.
3. Scholarship: monetary funds provided by the Recreation Commission through Recreation Revolving Account
4. Year: September 1-August 31