



# Summer Camp Scholarships

The City of Gainesville, Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs offers two levels of scholarships for those who demonstrate financial hardship.

The **Level One** scholarship provides a 50% reduction in registration fees. This scholarship level will be awarded to every child (eligible only to those residing in the city limits of Gainesville) who meet the financial hardship guidelines for free or reduced-price meals. Award of a level one scholarship is not a registration; the parent or guardian must complete a registration form and pay the remaining balance in order to complete the process and secure a spot in our camps. Level one process is awarded and determined through the Recreation Division. Recreation Manager reserves the right to approve or refuse any applications.

The **Level Two** scholarships pays for the remaining registration fee, making the program free to the participant through a scholarship fund created under the Gainesville Arts & Parks Foundation, Inc. Level two scholarships are not always available depending on fundraising and resources from the GAP Foundation. When funds are available, level two scholarship availability, the deadline to apply and lottery date will be announced when registration opens. In order to qualify for a level two scholarship, the child must meet the financial hardship guidelines for free meals. To ensure fairness of full scholarship distribution, a lottery process is utilized.

## **To be considered, each applicant must provide:**

- GAP Application Form (one for each applicant)
- Copy of 2021 Tax Return showing Adjusted Gross Income, filing status and dependents claimed
- Copies of last four (4) paystubs for all household adults
- Letter from DCF showing household members and current eligibility programs (i.e., TANF, SNAP, EBT)
- Copy of Birth Certificate for each applicant child (Copies only – will not make copies)
- Copy of GRU Bill or lease showing residency
- Child support, alimony or any other documents proving income that may help determine eligibility

The total amount of level two scholarships to be awarded will be divided evenly to the centers in operation for summer camp. A complete scholarship application and supporting documents must be submitted

in order to determine eligibility for any scholarship. If the number of applications does not exceed the funding available, then a lottery will be used to determine who gets a level two scholarship. All application deadlines will be determined by the PRCA/GAP Scholarship Selection Committee. Deadlines may be extended according to the Committee's recommendation and approval by the Director of PRCA.

## **Lottery Guidelines for GAP Funding**

A separate scholarship application must be filled out for each child. Every second level funding application will be numbered. Applications submitted after the deadline set by the Department each year will not be considered. The number on the application is attached to the applicant's name through the entire process; no duplicate numbers are assigned to applications. If an application is approved for a second level scholarship, its number will be added to the master list of eligible participants for a lottery drawing. All applications eligible for the second level scholarship will be placed in an Excel Spreadsheet by center name with the corresponding application number to create the eligibility list of the lottery drawing. On the date of the drawing, Excel Rand will be utilized for random number selection to create the Second Level Lottery Drawing Master List. There will be a separate drawing and list created for each center. The list will then be used to award scholarships in order, as well as establish the waiting list.

## **Requirements of Scholarship Recipients**

**When scholarships are granted, a child must attend on a requested basis selected by the selection committee. Full time equates to three (3) times a week. If a child misses three days of granted week, then the scholarship will be revoked. The child may remain a registered participant by paying the full rate of camp for the remainder of the desired camp sessions within two days of the decision. If the child does not make this payment then he/she will be withdrawn from camp. The remaining value for that scholarship will be offered to the next number on the waiting list, in priority order. If no one accepts the scholarship, then the amount will remain with the GAP Foundation for future endeavors.**

Scholarship fees are not transferrable to child or center and have no cash value to the recipient. Department head reserves the right to refuse, adjust or modify process according to discretions.

