

Freeport Community Services Carol Southall Summer Camp Scholarship Program 2023 Report



Celebrating the 9th year
of collaboration.

Ensuring every family's child
can attend summer camp.



Collaboration is at the heart of the Camp Scholarship program here at Freeport Community Services (FCS). Having enough resources to help so many children go to summer camp is truly a community effort.

The Town of Freeport, Freeport Housing Trust (FHT), and generous donations from our neighbors work together to make sure that any family needing help sending their child to summer camp has a place to turn to.

This is the 9th year of a unique collaboration between FHT and FCS, which endeavors to provide children residing in FHT properties with a summer camp experience. An annual gift of \$10,000 has been generously donated to the FCS Camp Scholarship fund by the FHT Board of Directors to support FHT families since 2014.

FCS continues to have strong relationships with the RSU5 school district personnel and RSU5 Community Programs personnel to best share scholarship and camp information.



All 16 children residing in FHT properties enjoyed 32 weeks of scholarship-paid camp during the summer of 2023.



FCS also works closely with a variety of summer camps. FCS sent letters and applications directly to past scholarship recipients and their families, encouraging early application.

Families paid a small fee to apply to the program (\$10 for first child, \$5 for additional children). This fee was waived upon request. Families could request a scholarship for any camp of their choice. Families indicated on the FCS Camp Scholarship application what portion of the camp fee they could pay. Scholarships then were granted to cover the unmet need, up to \$650. FCS staff checked in with families to determine if they had any concerns about balances due.

The 16 children residing in FHT properties who participated in this program enjoyed 32 weeks of scholarship paid camp during the summer of 2023. Families overwhelmingly chose offerings through RSU5 Community Programs.

The total cost of scholarships to RSU5 Summer Camps this year was \$11,134.

The overall results of the FCS Summer Camp Scholarship program were similarly encouraging.

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FCS awarded grants to 52 children resulting in 104 weeks of camp experience. The total value of all camp weeks that scholarship children attended (both scholarship weeks and those paid for by parents or other scholarships) was \$37,139.

FCS is confident that the Summer Camp Scholarship Program is addressing the needs of the most vulnerable children in our community.

A voluntary question on the FCS application asks if the child qualifies for free or reduced lunch at school, which is an important indicator of income. 75% of families indicated their children are eligible for free and reduced school lunch. The remaining families indicated health concerns, single parent status and significant strains on income.

FHT Property Name	# of Families/ Children
Village View	1/1
Varney Square	6/11
Bow Street Apartments	0/0
Maplewood Terrace	0/0
Wardtown Park	1/2
Wildewood	2/2
TOTAL	10 families/16 children



Photos courtesy of RSU5.

Participating Camps

- Bridgton Sports Camp
- Falcons Lacrosse and Field Hockey Camp
- Summer Drama
- Camp Jordan
- Gee's Drama and Dance
- Teen Treks
- Camp Seaside
- Ketcha Outdoors
- Through The Trees
- Chop Point
- LL Bean Outdoor Discovery Programs
- Top Rockers Hip Hop Dance Crew
- Fairy Dance Camp
- Mad Science
- Top Rockers Hip-Hop and Jazz Dance
- Falcon Baseball
- New England Sports Camp Field Hockey
- Wolfe's Neck Farm Camp
- Falcon Basketball
- Revolution Field Hockey
- Youth Football - supported by Freeport Gridiron Club
- Falcon Football
- Studio 48 Dance Intensive
- Falcon Track
- Studio 48 Glee Singers & Songwriting