

## **Southborough Youth and Family Services Camp Scholarship Program**

The objective of the Southborough Youth and Family Services (SYFS) camp scholarship program is to afford disadvantaged Southborough youth the opportunity to enjoy meaningful and enriching summer camp activities and quality supervision while also supporting the parents in these families to continue their work schedules without disruption or increased financial hardship during the summer months. In 2019, SYFS sent 34 campers to 77 weeks of camp. Annually our goal is to send every qualifying youth to at least two weeks of camp out of the eight weeks of summer. Our current funding comes from grant funds awarded from the Southborough Community Fund and fundraising efforts of the Friends of the Southborough Youth Commission (FSYC). Applicants to the program have a choice of eight camp opportunities:

- Southborough Extended Day Program (SEDP)
- YMCA Overnight Camps (North Woods and Pleasant Valley in New Hampshire)
- YMCA Hopkinton
- Southborough Recreation
- Hopkinton Center for the Arts
- Teamworks
- Fay Summer through the Fay School
- Broad Meadow Brook (Audubon Worcester)

### **Why contribute to the SYFS camp scholarship program?**

Despite generous grant funding and donations to FSYC, we are only able to offer two weeks of camp to each applicant out of the eight weeks of summer. This means, the camp scholarship program is helpful but there is room for much more assistance.

Additionally, the camp scholarship program is generally limited to younger age groups, ages 6-12 years old. While middle school and high school students may be able to take care of themselves in the summer months and typically taper off going to summer camp around this age, these young people are most often our most at risk population and may benefit the most for quality supervision, instruction, and positive development. There are many amazing camp experiences for older youth. Counselor in Training (CIT) programs offer job readiness training and skills building. Academic summer camps for high school students giving them a taste of college and introduction to subjects they may be interested in studying. Adventure camps offer once in a lifetime opportunities, relationships that will last a lifetime, and the opportunity to develop their best self.

Given that the town budget does not designate any funds towards camperships, SYFS is asking that you please consider making a donation to support this invaluable program. Contributions of any amount will be gratefully received, and all are encouraged to explore matching gift programs offered by their employers. Friends of the Southborough Youth Commission, the group that raises funds to help support SYFS programs, has 501(c)(3) status as a charitable organization, allowing gifts to be tax deductible. Donations can be made securely online at [www.southboroughfriends.wordpress.com](http://www.southboroughfriends.wordpress.com), or by sending a check made payable to Friends of the Southborough Youth Commission to Friends of SYC, 17 Common Street, Southborough, MA 01772.

You can find out more about SYFS and Friends of the Southborough Youth Commission by visiting [www.southboroughtown.com/YouthFamily/youthfam.htm](http://www.southboroughtown.com/YouthFamily/youthfam.htm), or contact Sarah Cassell, Director of Southborough Youth and Family Services at [scassell@southboroughma.com](mailto:scassell@southboroughma.com) or 508.481.5676 ext. 1. Thank you in advance for your support of the Campership Program.