Jefferson County Youth Bureau

A Division of Jefferson County Department of Social Services

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Notice

2026-2027 Recreation Scholarships Available

The Jefferson County Department of Social Services is pleased to announce the availability of recreation scholarships. These scholarships are for children and youth who do not have the opportunity to participate in recreational, social, or cultural events, and who are at risk of not developing to their fullest potential.

The funding for the scholarships is provided by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

Involvement in positive social and recreational activities is crucial for positive youth development, and young people who are not involved in these activities are more likely to become involved in behaviors that put them at risk of not developing to their fullest. Involvement in recreational, cultural, and social activities gives young people the opportunity to discover and develop their talents and interests, and to relate to positive adult role models and peers. The Recreation Scholarships are for the Youth Bureau Program year October 1, 2026 - September 30, 2027.

Scholarships are available for recreational, cultural, educational, or social activities that have been demonstrated to be of value to increasing abilities, talents, or positive relationships. Examples are registration fees for sports leagues, fees for participation in karate or outdoor adventure programs, computer camps, dance, art, or music lessons. The maximum amount per scholarship for these "skill building" activities is $400.00 and may include equipment or clothing necessary to participate in the activity.

Limited scholarships are also available for general camp experiences. The maximum amount per scholarship for general camp experience is $500.00.

We are no longer able to fund Organization memberships. Young people or their parents may contact the organization directly to discuss possible financial assistance.

To nominate a young person for a scholarship, please complete the enclosed application form and return it to the Jefferson County Department of Social Services/Youth Bureau by e-mail (Tamara.Hunter@dfa.state.ny.us), mail (250 Arsenal St., Watertown, N.Y. 13601), or fax (315-785–3109) or you may duplicate the application for additional nominations. To ensure a degree of objectivity, nominations must be made by someone other than family members or friends. Preferably counselors, doctors, school psychiatrists, or social workers who know these children. Applications will be looked at on a case-by-case basis, and we may need to contact you for more information.

The agency or person making the nomination will be notified of the decision. It will be the responsibility of that person or agency to help the child and family with any necessary arrangements, if necessary (for example: registration, transportation). Confidentiality of applications will be honored.

Please contact Nicholle Lacey at the Department of Social Services/Youth Bureau, at 315-785-5031 or Tammy Hunter at 315-785-3128, if you have any questions or need additional information.