
YOUTH PROGRAMS & ATHLETICS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY & APPLICATION

PURPOSE

- It is the mission of the Southern Pines Recreation and Parks department to enhance life for the citizens of Southern Pines by maintaining quality parks, recreational facilities and community centers along with a variety of programs, athletics and leisure activities.
- It is the department's goal to provide financial assistance to eligible school-aged children who may not be able to otherwise participate in recreation and athletic activities sponsored through the Southern Pines Recreation and Parks department.

SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

- Scholarships will be limited to \$100 per participant per fiscal year, July 1 through June 30.
- Scholarships will not be given to the same participant more than two consecutive years for athletic leagues or three consecutive months/sessions (whichever is less) for programs.
- The registration fee for the athletic or recreation activity must be more than \$25 to qualify for any scholarship.
- The number of scholarships is limited per program and are dependent upon funds available each year. For this reason, not all applicants who apply will be granted scholarship assistance.
- Available scholarships will be granted on a first-come/first-served basis, but scholarship applications are due no later than three (3) weeks prior to the program registration deadline. Applicants will be notified of a decision before the registration deadline and must submit payment for the remaining balance by the close of registration in order to be enrolled.
- Applicants are required to provide proof of eligibility for the Scholarship each fiscal year, July 1 through June 30.
- Personal information provided for the purpose of the scholarship application will be kept strictly confidential.
- Decisions on financial assistance will be made without regard to gender, sexual orientation, marital status, race, creed, religion, disability, or national origin.

SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY

- Scholarships are only available to youth residents within the corporate limits of the Town of Southern Pines. The parent/guardian shall provide proof of residency with the application, which may include copy of a driver's license, Town utility bill, property tax bill, or similar.
- For the purposes of this program, the participant shall be a current student in grades kindergarten through 12th grade.
- To be eligible for a scholarship, participants must be currently enrolled in [Free or Reduced Meals](#) program through Moore County School System and submit proof of this enrollment along with the scholarship application. If a parent/guardian is applying for a scholarship for more than one child, this documentation must be submitted for each participant.
 - Participants who are eligible for **Reduced** school meals may receive a 25% scholarship toward the total cost of the program registration fee (rounded to the nearest dollar amount). (Example: Youth Basketball League registration fee of \$30. 25% scholarship = \$7.50, rounded to \$8. Therefore \$30 - \$8 scholarship = \$22 participant responsibility.)
 - Participants who are eligible for **Free** school meals may receive a 50% scholarship toward the total cost of the program registration fee (rounded to the nearest dollar amount). (Example: Youth Cooking program registration fee of \$55. 50% scholarship = \$27.50, rounded to \$28. Therefore \$55 - \$28 scholarship = \$27 participant responsibility.)
 - NOTE: Participants who are Homeschooled or attending virtual school may receive a scholarship, but must submit proof of gross income and household size, to be reviewed by Town staff based on the USDA Food and Nutrition Service annual [Income Eligibility Guidelines](#) for Child Nutrition Programs. These guidelines will determine if the parent's income would make the child(ren) eligible for a 25% scholarship (reduced price meal) or 50% scholarship (free meals).

Southern Pines Recreation and Parks

Youth Scholarship Program Application

Parent/Guardian Information			
Name:		Email:	
Home Address:			
City/Zip:		Phone:	

Participant Information					
Participant's Name:	Date of Birth:	Grade:	Program Name:	Program Dates:	Fee:
					\$
					\$
					\$

Available Scholarship:

- The Southern Pines resident child named above qualifies for **free** meals through the public-school meal program, he/she will be eligible for a 50% scholarship (rounded to the nearest dollar) toward the program registration fee(s).
- The Southern Pines resident child named above qualifies for **reduced** meals through the public-school meal program, he/she will be eligible for a 25% scholarship (rounded to the nearest dollar) toward the program registration fee(s).
- Proof of meal discounts (letter) provided Moore County School System is provided with this application by the parent or guardian registering the child. (Copy of letter from Moore County School System must be attached to in order to qualify for consideration of scholarship)
- Proof of residency is provided with this application by the parent or guardian registering the child. (Documented proof of residency must be provided in order to qualify for consideration of scholarship.

It is the mission of the Southern Pines Recreation and Parks Department to provide recreational opportunities to all the residents of Southern Pines. Some programs require the payment of a fee to cover the expenses incurred by offering the program. Realizing the need to include all residents in these leisure activities, Southern Pines will offer a limited amount of scholarship funding for resident youth meeting the guidelines listed in this document. The number of scholarships is limited per program, depending on the funds available each year. The Recreation and Parks Director will interpret this policy based upon available funds and revenue objectives in a given budget year and will make the final decision on the scholarship funds available in this policy. Southern Pines Recreation and Parks department will make a reasonable effort to accommodate those residents unable to pay. Proof of residency shall be required and shall be determined by the actual residence of the youth. Scholarships are available on a first-come-first-serve basis. Applicants will be required to provide proof of eligibility for scholarship consideration per the criteria within this policy. Signature below certifies that all information provided is correct to the best of my knowledge.

 Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

 Signature of Parent/Guardian

 Date of Application

Staff Use Only

Scholarship Amount Awarded: \$ _____ Amount Owed by participants: \$ _____

Denied: _____ Date Notified: _____

Documentation Verified: _____ Staff Signature: _____ Date: _____