



Town of Bourne Recreation Department

239 Main Street, Buzzards Bay, MA, 02532
(508)–759–0600 ext. 5302

SCHOLARSHIP POLICY

The Bourne Recreation Department is committed to providing inclusive and accessible programs for all residents. A limited number of scholarships are available to assist individuals and families with financial need.

Scholarship assistance is made possible solely through the generosity of community donations. While we are proud to offer scholarship opportunities whenever possible, available funding may vary from year to year and cannot always be guaranteed. We remain deeply grateful to those who help make participation opportunities available to local families.

ELIGIBILITY

Scholarships are available to Bourne residents who meet at least one of the following:

- Qualify for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch through the Bourne Public Schools, or
- Meet income guidelines based on current state or federal low- to moderate-income standards.

INCOME GUIDELINES

Household income eligibility will generally follow the Massachusetts Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Program thresholds or similar guidelines. Documentation may be requested.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- A simple scholarship application must be completed prior to program registration.
- Applicants may be asked to provide proof of eligibility (such as Free/Reduced Lunch status or income verification).
- Applications are reviewed confidentially by Recreation Department staff.

AWARD AMOUNT

- Scholarships may cover up to 50% of program fees unless otherwise approved. A higher percentage may be awarded if approved by the Recreation Department.
- Scholarships are limited and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

GUIDELINES

- Applicants may be limited to a certain number of scholarships per season.
- Participants who receive a scholarship are expected to attend the program regularly.
- Failure to attend without notice may impact future eligibility.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All scholarship requests, documentation, and awards will be kept confidential.

DONATIONS TO THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Bourne Recreation Department welcomes donations to support scholarships and expand access to programs and events for the community.

All donations must be made payable to the **Town of Bourne** and are subject to acceptance by the Select Board.

Donors may choose to direct their contribution in one of the following ways:

1. **Program-Specific Donation**

Funds are designated to support scholarships for a specific recreation program.

2. **General Recreation Scholarship Fund**

Funds used at the discretion of the Recreation Department to support scholarships across all programs based on need.

3. **Special Events Donation**

Funds designated to support community events, including reducing or offsetting participation costs.

Donors are asked to submit a brief letter with their contribution outlining any specific wishes, designations, or limitations for how the funds should be used. The Town will make every effort to honor donor intent in accordance with applicable laws and policies.

Donations will be used solely for their intended purpose whenever possible and will help ensure equitable access to Bourne Recreation Department offerings.

For more information on how to donate, please contact the Bourne Recreation Department.

Katie Matthews

Recreation Director
Town of Bourne
508-759-0600 ext 5236

This policy was approved by the Select Board 7.7.26