



Juneau Community Foundation

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**Juneau Community Foundation
Awards Youth Activity Scholarships**

The Juneau Community Foundation recently awarded \$4,000 for scholarships to eight local youth summer camp providers. Each organization received \$500 in scholarship funds to support participation for low-income children in current and or upcoming camps and programs. Funding came from the Foundation's Youth Fund and Great Blue Heron Fund. The following organizations received Foundation support:

- JEDC's STEM Camps/Programs
- Fine Arts Camp/Juneau Dance Theater
- The Canvas/REACH
- Discovery Southeast
- Lynn Canal Running Camp
- Perseverance Theater Youth Programs
- Juneau Youth Sailing
- Camp Invention (middle school STEM)

Equity and access is at the heart of the Foundation's commitment to Juneau's youth. The Youth Fund supports projects and programs that bring people together around the shared goal of providing local children with the opportunity to participate in cultural, artistic, athletic or academic activities regardless of economic status.

"These scholarships let us serve children who wouldn't otherwise have such opportunities--that's exactly what's needed to move the dial long term on the bigger issues facing our community." Shawn Eisle, Executive Director, Discovery Southeast

Through an informal survey of some summer camp providers the Foundation learned that there are several hurdles for children from low-income families to participating in camps and other activities. Beyond the cost of attending, hurdles include knowing about the program in the first place; understanding that scholarships are available; having transportation to get to and from activities; and, having the equipment, basic supplies, or clothing needed, such as rain coats, boots, and sack lunches.

"Scholarship funding from local sponsors helps us open up access to more of the community. About 20% of our campers receive financial aid. We know that there are still barriers out there keeping families that want to participate out, and we're excited to continue working with Juneau Community Foundation and other community partners to identify and tackle those barriers." Rebecca Soza, STEM Program Manager, Juneau Economic Development Council

The Youth Fund strives to remove barriers to participation for our at-risk youth. The Foundation seeks to increase community investment in a general youth activity scholarship program, and to improve the participation rate for low-income families. The Foundation applauds all youth activity providers for the work they do on behalf of our children and the community at large. Learn more at: www.juneaucf.org.

Two pictures follow on the next page.



Above: Explorers Camp, Gruening Park, JEDC/SERRC. Photo Credit: Melissa Griffiths
Below: Outdoor Explorers Camp, Eagle Beach, Discovery Southeast

