



INDIANAPOLIS
PARKS FOUNDATION

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Corie
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS RELEASE

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Hundreds of Marion County youth have opportunity for Indy Parks' programs thanks to Summer Youth Program Fund

Four popular youth programs and a new learning program at Garfield Park will benefit from \$48,600 in grants recently made to the Indianapolis Parks Foundation by the Summer Youth Program Fund (SYPF).

The Indy Parks and Recreation programs target children with special needs, an interest in higher education, aspirations of becoming lifeguards, or interests varying from art to gardening to wellness. All five programs received funding from SYPF, a collaboration of 13 local partners and affiliate funds, including Lilly Endowment, The Indianapolis Foundation, Christel DeHaan Family Foundation, The Clowes Fund and the Lumina Foundation.

Programs supported by the Summer Youth Program Fund grants are:

INDY YOUTH ACHIEVERS - \$20,000 grant This eight-week program targets youth ages 12 to 16, supporting their interest in and preparation for higher education. Eight Indy Parks family centers will offer the program, which includes life-skills lessons, day trips to local universities and two service-learning projects.

CAMP GATHER - \$11,000 grant Camp GATHER (Greater Access To Help Everyone Recreate) and Camp GATHER on the Move are eight-week summer day camps for youth and young adults, ages 6 to 21, who have physical and/or intellectual disabilities. The camp has weekly themes similar to traditional day camps with a greater emphasis on daily physical activity and socialization skills, allowing campers to experience camp in an environment designed to meet their intellectual and physical needs.

LIFEGUARD/JUNIOR LIFEGUARD TRAINING - \$7,600 grant Youth ages 11 to 15 (Junior Lifeguard Training Program) and 16 and older (Lifeguard Training Program) learn the necessary skills to be employed as lifeguards for Indy Parks. Activities for both age levels include classroom learning, water and poolside experience, customer service training, and CPR and first-aid certification.

SUMMER PLAY EVERY DAY - \$7,500 grant This is the third year for Summer Play Every Day, which actively addresses obesity through education. Youth learn about fitness and wellness and engage in fitness programs. Summer Play Every Day will be provided through summer programs at 32 neighborhood parks, nine community parks and seven day camps.

ART IN THE GARDEN SUMMER CAMP - \$7,200 grant Art in the Garden is a new, eight-week collaborative program between the Garfield Park Arts Center and the Garfield Park Conservatory and Sunken Garden. The weekly programs, for youth ages 4 to 13, will combine the arts and the science of gardening, and culminates with a public art display in Garfield Park's Children's Garden.

Registration for summer camps is now open. Learn more at www.IndyParks.org.

The Indianapolis Parks Foundation seeks financial support from community partners such as service organizations, corporations and individuals to help purchase land, develop new parks, maintain existing parks, upgrade park facilities and provide support to programs benefiting children, families and seniors throughout Marion County. For more information about the Indianapolis Parks Foundation, visit www.IndyParksFoundation.org, or call (317) 860-3250.

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