

Benton Parks and Recreation Scholarship Program

Benton Parks and Recreation scholarship program was designed to help make recreation services more accessible to community members who may not have the opportunity to participate due to financial limitations.

- Scholarships are limited to a maximum of \$100 per household, per calendar year and must be used by December 31st of the year scholarship funds are received. Recipients are required to pay any fees above the \$100 maximum household scholarship amount.
- Scholarships are available on a first-come, first-served basis until all scholarship funds are exhausted.
- Individuals may only receive the amount of funds needed for registration for a specific class or program.
- Applicants requesting financial assistance through the Benton Parks and Recreation Scholarship Program must show proof of residency and financial need.
- Failure to attend a program paid for by a scholarship or failure to follow program or facility rules may result in the loss of future financial assistance.
- Submittal of an application does not guarantee scholarship.
- Scholarships are not retro-active.

Programs Not Eligible for Scholarships

- Adult programs, fitness classes and personal training.
- River Center membership passes and drop-in admission.

Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must be a resident and provide either a valid driver's license or other picture ID indicating residency in the City of Benton.
- Proof of participation in an assistance program such as SNAP (EBT cards), Aid to the Needy and Disabled (AND), CCAP Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), foster care, free or reduced lunch, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Medicaid, Medicare Savings Program, Old Age Pension (OAP), Supplementary Security Income/ Social Security Disability Income, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).
- If the applicant is not on a qualifying assistance program but their income is within federal low-income guidelines, they may submit a copy of their most recent 1040 tax return with their social security number blacked out. To view the federal low-income guideline chart visit <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>.
- To help the City of Benton receive funding for scholarships in the future, recipients must be willing to provide a written testimonial (on the application) describing how the scholarship will benefit their family, child, or self.

How Do I Apply?

- Applicants may pick up a scholarship application at the River Center front desk or download a copy online at betonar.org.
- Applicants must bring the completed scholarship application and acceptable forms of eligibility to River Center front desk.



Scholarship Application

Your application will be confidentially reviewed.

Name: _____ DOB: _____ Shirt Size: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Parent/Guardian DOB: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Program Applying for: _____ Fee: _____

How will you or your child benefit from the recreation activity you are applying to receive scholarship funds for?

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

**Incomplete forms will not be processed.*

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received: _____ Date Approved: _____ Amount Awarded: \$ _____

Approved By: _____



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FAQs



WHAT PROGRAMS ARE *NOT* ELIGIBLE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS?

- Adult programs, fitness classes and personal training.
- River Center membership passes and drop-in admission.

WHO ADMINISTERS THE BENTON PARKS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM?

The Parks Director and Assistant Parks Director will administer the scholarship program.

CAN SOMEONE APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP AFTER THEY HAVE REGISTERED FOR OR PARTICIPATED IN A PROGRAM?

No, scholarships are not retro-active.

WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS?

- Applicants must be a resident and provide either a valid driver's license or other picture ID indicating residency in the City of Benton.
- Proof of participation in an assistance program such as SNAP (EBT cards), Aid to the Needy and Disabled (AND), CCAP Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), foster care, free or reduced lunch, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Medicaid, Medicare Savings Program, Old Age Pension (OAP), Supplementary Security Income/ Social Security Disability Income, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).
- If the applicant is not on a qualifying assistance program but their income is within federal low-income guidelines, they may submit a copy of their most recent 1040 tax return with their social security number blacked out. To view the federal low-income guideline chart visit <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>.
- To help the City of Benton receive funding for scholarships in the future, recipients must be willing to provide a written testimonial (on the application) describing how the scholarship will benefit their family, child, or self.

HOW DO PATRONS APPLY?

- Applicants may pick up a scholarship application at the River Center front desk or download a copy online at betonar.org.
- Applicants must bring the completed scholarship application and acceptable forms of eligibility to River Center front desk.

WHAT DO I DO WHEN SOMEONE SUBMITS A SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION?

Ask the applicant if they have submitted the required proof of eligibility documents. Because personal information is included on the scholarship application, immediately put applications in an inner office envelope and send it to the scholarship administrator. Applications must be kept strictly confidential.

HOW DO YOU DETERMINE WHO GETS A SCHOLARSHIP?

Scholarships are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to anyone who meets the eligibility requirements and until all scholarship funds are exhausted.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I SEND AN APPLICATION TO THE SCHOLARSHIP ADMINISTRATOR?

- Applications will be reviewed by the scholarship administrator every Friday.
- The scholarship administrator will determine if the applicant is eligible by verifying the eligibility requirements are met and required documentation has been submitted.
- If the applicant is awarded funds, the scholarship administrator will create a household in Activenet (if one does not exist) and create a credit for the amount of the scholarship in their account.
- Applicants will be contacted by the scholarship administrator within two weeks of applying to inform them of their application status. If they are awarded funds, the scholarship administrator will direct them to register online or by calling the River Center front desk.
- The scholarship administrator is responsible for filing and tracking all applications and monitors the distribution of funds to ensure grant requirements are met.

WHERE DO FUNDS FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM COME FROM?

The Benton Parks and Recreation Scholarship Program is funded primarily with donations and/or available grant funding.

CAN SOMEONE APPLY MORE THAN ONCE PER YEAR?

Scholarships are limited to a maximum of \$100 per household, per calendar year. If a scholarship recipient has not received the maximum scholarship amount, they may apply for additional funds. They will be required to submit a new application but do not need to resubmit proof of eligibility.