

Summer Sessions @ UAF & LIFELONG LEARNING

April 12, 2019

College Rotary
c/o Patty Merritt
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Patty,

I am writing at your suggestion as a follow up to our conversation today. I am seeking a contribution to fund scholarships for the UAF Summer Sessions & Lifelong Learning Summer Day Camp Program. Our camps meet three hours a day for one week and target children entering grades 2-3, 4-6, and 7-8. This year the program consists of 49 specialty camps in a variety of areas, such as Aerial Silks, Archeology, Art, Bead Jewelry, Bugs, Baking, Cooking, Crime Scene Detective, Dance and Choreography, Dinosaur, Geology, Golf, Gymnastics, Hip Hop, Japanese, Jr Author, Jr Broadcaster, Jr Engineer, Jr Firefighter, Jr Gardener, Jr Veterinarian, Law & Order, Money, Photography, Pottery, Puppet, and Rock Climbing. More information can be found on our website (www.uaf.edu/summer).

In past years these camps have been a fabulous experience for the participating children. The program is self-support, receiving no general fund monies. Originally, only those children whose parents who could afford to send them were able to participate. Three years ago, we established a scholarship fund for children whose parents could not afford the camps. The only screening tool was eligibility for the free and reduced lunch program of the public school system. Parents of eligible children only pay \$25/camp when the true cost of the program is \$190-\$230 per camp. A \$2,000 donation from Rotary District 5010 would provide 10 needs-based scholarships. Last year over 600 slots were filled in 44 different camps. This year we have a capacity of 869. I know this is a substantial ask, but I also know that the benefit to these Fairbanks children will be huge. For them, it will be an experience of a lifetime. I do not want any child in Fairbanks to be deprived of a camping experience simply because their parent could not afford it.

I would welcome any questions that you may have and appreciate your willingness to consider my request.

Sincerely,

Michelle Bartlett, Director



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