



CITY OF MERRIAM
Parks and Recreation Department
5701 Merriam Drive
Merriam, KS 66203
(913) 322-5550

SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Description

User fees support the recreational programs and facility memberships offered by the City of Merriam Parks and Recreation Department. Program participants are required to pay registration fees for each program in which they register. There are multiple programs qualifying families may participate in order to receive assistance for fees associated with programs.

Scholarship Assistance Programs

1. Merriam Parks Recreation and Community Center Scholarship
 - a. \$100 per Merriam household per calendar year to be applied toward programs, memberships or season passes
2. Dolphin Fund
 - a. \$60 per child (18 years of age or younger and attending school) in qualifying Merriam household per year to be used toward Dolphin Swim Team and Merriam Aquatic Center swim lessons
3. KanCare
 - a. \$50 per year for youth participating in a qualified KanCare Medicaid Program (no residency restrictions)

Criteria

Merriam Parks and Recreation Community Center Scholarship & Dolphin Fund

1. Proof of Merriam Residency – proper identification to include a state issued id or official mail defined to include utility bills, bank statement or credit card statement with Merriam address
2. Proof of public assistance such as HUD housing, KanCare, SNAP or other state funded nutritional assistance programs
3. Completion of appropriate application

KanCare

1. Proof of KanCare member identification
2. Required form from KanCare Caseworker
3. Applied toward eligible youth classes or summer aquatic passes

Procedure

1. Applicants **must be residents** of the City of Merriam. Persons residing outside the city limits are not eligible, with the exception of KanCare. All information provided by the applicant will be kept confidential and will be used solely for the purpose of establishing eligibility.
2. To qualify for a Merriam Parks Recreation and Community Center or Dolphin Fund Scholarship, an individual or head of household with dependents must provide documentation that they are receiving some type of public assistance. Documentation must include proof of current year eligibility. Examples include: Social Security Supplemental Security Income (SSI); Food Assistance; or other assistance from SRS, WIC food vouchers, or free school lunches.
3. Dependents of qualified persons must be 18 years old or younger, and attending school.
4. With the exception of KanCare, scholarship recipients will receive 80% assistance for the approved scholarship. The recipient will be responsible for paying the remaining 20% at time of enrollment.
5. KanCare participants must contact their caseworker for the appropriate paperwork and provide a copy of their member identification card.

Application Procedures

1. **Obtain verification of need from the public assistance agency** of the type of assistance being received. Documentation must be provided for the current year. Qualifying documents could include a letter from the agency on letterhead specifying the type of assistance being received and listing all family members who are applying for a scholarship, or a current case profile print-out from SRS, stamped with agency office address, listing all family members.
2. **Complete the Scholarship Application form and attach the written letter of recommendation.** Bring the application to Merriam Parks & Recreation Department office, Irene B. French Community Center, 5701 Merriam Drive (Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM.)
3. Allow up to seven working days to receive notification of approval or denial.
4. If the scholarship is approved, the recipient is required to pay 20% of the program, membership, or class fees, following the normal registration procedures.

Other Information:

1. No portion of the scholarships are transferable to another person, remaining balances are not carried forward into the next calendar year.
2. Age restrictions apply to KanCare and Dolphin Fund scholarships.
3. Recipients must follow all Merriam Parks and Recreation Department rules, regulations, and policies. Failure to do so will result in revocation of scholarship and loss of privileges.
4. Scholarships do not apply to the purchase of class supplies.
5. Scholarship funds are provided from private and civic group donations, and are available on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to availability.
6. Special arrangements may be made to provide volunteer hours in lieu of the 20% co-pay, subject to staff and project availability.