



Folsom City Council Staff Report

MEETING DATE:	2/24/2026
AGENDA SECTION:	Consent Calendar
ITEM TITLE:	Resolution No. 11558 - A Resolution Amending Resolution No. 9341 to Modify the Eligibility Requirements for the Program for Local Assistance Youth Recreation Scholarship (PLAYRS) to be Administered by the Parks & Recreation Department in the amount of \$10,000 in the General Fund (Fund 010) Parks & Recreation Department, and Changing the Program Name to “Scholarship Promoting Activity, Recreation, and Knowledge for All (SPARK)”
FROM:	Parks and Recreation Department

RECOMMENDATION / CITY COUNCIL ACTION

Staff recommends that the City Council approve Resolution No. 11558 - A Resolution Amending Resolution No. 9341 to Modify the Eligibility Requirements for the Program for Local Assistance Youth Recreation Scholarship (PLAYRS) to be Administered by the Parks & Recreation Department in the amount of \$10,000 in the General Fund (Fund 010) Parks & Recreation Department, and Changing the Program name to “Scholarship Promoting Activity, Recreation, and Knowledge for All (SPARK).”

BACKGROUND / ISSUE

The Program for Local Assistance Youth Recreation Scholarships (PLAYRS) was established by the City Council in April 2014 to ensure that financial constraints do not prevent Folsom youth from participating in the City’s fee-based Parks & Recreation programs. The program was designed to remove cost barriers that could otherwise limit access to the educational, social, and physical benefits associated with organized recreation activities.

Since its inception, the program has operated with an annual funding cap of \$10,000, which has been appropriated annually beginning in Fiscal Year 2014/15.

In April 2024, the City Council approved program modifications to improve accessibility and effectiveness. These updates included increasing the maximum scholarship award from \$100 to \$250 per participant per year (defined as a rolling 12-month period) and eliminating the prior requirement for families to provide a 50 percent matching contribution. These changes were intended to further reduce financial barriers and increase program utilization among eligible youth. Over the past five years, the scholarship program has experienced consistent growth, providing an increased number of scholarships to youth in the Folsom community and reflecting continued demand for financial assistance (Table A).

TABLE A - PLAYRS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Year	Amount of Scholarship Awards	Number of Programs Participated In
FY 2020-21	\$249.00	4
FY 2021-22	\$4,117.32	16
FY 2022-23	\$2,840.00	25
FY 2023-24	\$7,950.00	41
FY 2024-25	\$8,250.00	44

POLICY / RULE

In accordance with standard municipal practice, an amendment or repeal of an adopted resolution should be completed through a subsequent resolution.

ANALYSIS

The Parks & Recreation Department currently administers a scholarship program intended to reduce financial barriers and increase access to participation in the City of Folsom Parks & Recreation fee-based programs. The program was originally established to serve youth. However, recent increases in inquiries from active adults and senior residents seeking financial assistance to participate in fee-based activities demonstrate a growing community need and present the opportunity to further align the program with the Department’s core values of promoting health and wellness and providing services to the community. Staff is recommending removing the age requirement for receiving these scholarships.

The scholarship program will continue to operate within the approved annual allocation of \$10,000. Staff proposes that 75 percent of available funds be designated for youth scholarships, with the remaining 25 percent allocated to adult and senior participants. Program utilization will be monitored throughout the fiscal year, and staff may adjust funding allocations, as appropriate, based on participation levels, requests, and available funding. The Parks & Recreation Department will continue to evaluate the program on an annual basis and will return to the City Council with any recommended policy or funding adjustments.

Eligibility requirements for receipt of scholarship funds, with the exception of age criteria, shall remain unchanged. Applicants who have been awarded a scholarship within the previous 12 months shall not be eligible to reapply.

To qualify, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- The applicant must reside within the City of Folsom boundaries.
- The applicant must commit to attending or participating in a minimum of 80 percent of the registered activity.

Additionally, applicants must qualify for, or currently receive, assistance from a Federal, State, or County program serving low-income families, youth, adults, or seniors. Examples of these programs include:

1. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
2. Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)
3. Foster Care
4. Medicaid/Medi-Cal
5. Food Stamps / CalFresh Program / Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
6. California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs)
7. Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program (Kin-GAP)
8. Unemployment benefits due to job loss exceeding 90 days, with verification of unemployment benefits

To date, no eligible applicant has been denied scholarship assistance due to insufficient funding. Applications that were denied were submitted by non-residents and therefore did not meet program eligibility requirements. Information regarding the scholarship program is publicly available on the City of Folsom website and in the Parks & Recreation Activity Guide. Staff will continue to work with our communications team to increase awareness of the program.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The annual funding limit for the scholarship program will remain set at \$10,000 and will continue to be incorporated into the Annual City Operating Budget each fiscal year as recommended by the City Manager. Funds are available on a fiscal year basis and any unspent funds do not carry forward into future fiscal years.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

No environmental review is required.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution No. 11558 - A Resolution Amending Resolution No. 9341 to Modify the Eligibility Requirements for the Program for Local Assistance Youth Recreation Scholarship (PLAYRS) to be Administered by the Parks & Recreation Department in the amount of \$10,000 in the General Fund (Fund 010) Parks & Recreation Department, and Changing the Program name to “Scholarship Promoting Activity, Recreation, and Knowledge for All (SPARK).”
2. Resolution No. 9341

Submitted,

Kelly Gonzalez
Parks & Recreation Director

Attachment 1

RESOLUTION NO. 11558

A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 9341 TO MODIFY THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROGRAM FOR LOCAL ASSISTANCE YOUTH RECREATION SCHOLARSHIP (PLAYRS) TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000 IN THE GENERAL FUND (FUND 010) PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, AND CHANGING THE PROGRAM NAME TO “SCHOLARSHIP PROMOTING ACTIVITY, RECREATION, KNOWLEDGE FOR ALL (SPARK)”

WHEREAS, in spite of Folsom’s relatively high median household income, there are families that do not have the financial means to participate in all the City’s parks and recreation fee based programs; and

WHEREAS, the City’s fee-based parks and recreation programs could be a barrier to some Folsom residents, preventing them from realizing the positive educational, social, and physical benefits derived from participation in the programs; and

WHEREAS, the City Council established a financial assistance/scholarship program called PLAYRS in 2014 that dedicated \$10,000 annually for financial support to Folsom’s youth; and

WHEREAS, Parks & Recreation Department staff have identified service gaps with the current requirements that prohibit adults and seniors from qualifying for scholarship assistance; and

WHEREAS, Parks & Recreation Department staff recommend that the requirements be changed to include all Folsom residents, including youth, adults, and seniors; and

WHEREAS, Parks & Recreation Department staff will rebrand the recreation scholarship program with an updated name change, “Scholarship Promoting Activity, Recreation and Knowledge for All (SPARK),” to better reflect the program’s mission of increasing access to recreational opportunities for the residents of the Folsom; and

WHEREAS, the annual funding limit will continue to be \$10,000 and included in each Fiscal Year Budget as recommended by the City Manager; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Folsom authorizes the City Manager to amend Resolution No. 9341 for the scholarship program not-to-exceed \$10,000 per fiscal year to be administered by the Parks & Recreation Department in accordance with updated eligibility requirements to include all Folsom residents who meet income and residency requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Folsom authorizes the City Manager to modify Resolution No. 9341 and rename the scholarship program “Scholarship Promoting Activity, Recreation and Knowledge for All (SPARK),” to better

reflect the program's mission of increasing access to recreational opportunities for the residents of the Folsom.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 24th day of February 2026, by the following roll-call vote:

AYES: Councilmember(s):
NOES: Councilmember(s):
ABSENT: Councilmember(s):
ABSTAIN: Councilmember(s):

Justin Raithel, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Christa Freemantle, CITY CLERK

Attachment 2

RESOLUTION NO. 9341

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE CITY OF FOLSOM PROGRAM FOR LOCAL ASSISTANCE YOUTH RECREATION SCHOLARSHIPS (PLAYRS)

WHEREAS, in spite of Folsom's relatively high median household income, there are families that do not have the financial means to participate in all of the City's parks and recreation programs; and

WHEREAS, the City's fee-based parks and recreation programs could be a barrier to some Folsom youth preventing them from realizing the positive educational, social, and physical benefits derived from participation in the programs; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to establish a financial assistance/scholarship program for Folsom youth so that no child is prevented from participation as a result of economic hardship; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to establish certain criteria and an application form for participation in the program to be administered by Parks and Recreation Department staff; and

WHEREAS, Parks and Recreation Department staff will regularly update the City Manager and Finance Director on the program's utilization; and

WHEREAS, the annual funding limit will be \$10,000 and included in each Fiscal Year Budget as recommended by the City Manager beginning with Fiscal Year 2014/15 with implementation beginning on July 1, 2014.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Folsom hereby establishes the annual Program for Local Assistance Youth Recreation Scholarships (PLAYRS) not-to-exceed \$10,000 per fiscal year to be administered by the Parks and Recreation Department in accordance with established eligibility criteria.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of April 2014, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Council Member(s): Starsky, Morin, Howell
NOES: Council Member(s): Sheldon
ABSENT: Council Member(s): Miklos
ABSTAIN: Council Member(s): None


Kerri M. Howell, MAYOR

ATTEST:


Lydia Konopka, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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and minimize paper use.*



CITY OF
FOLSOM
DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE