



## PRESS RELEASE

**Date:** November 1, 2024

**Contact:** Mariah Roberts

[Mariah.Roberts@countyparkfriends.org](mailto:Mariah.Roberts@countyparkfriends.org)

# COUNTY PARK FRIENDS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS

County Park Friends is raising \$30,000 in access scholarships to support active and health lifestyles for local youth, and they need your help!

All kids in Santa Cruz County should experience park programs in our beautiful outdoors. However, many families cannot afford the fees and too many youth miss out on formative experiences such as swim lessons, Pool Guards or sports camps.

Help Kids Play Scholarships cover those fees for qualified youth. Through tax-deductible donations, local residents can help County Park Friends raise \$30,000 for scholarships by December 2024. Donations can be made at <https://www.countyparkfriends.org/access-grants.html>.

Applications for Access Grants open to the public in February and March each year, and last year's interest exceeded available funding. County Park Friends previously awarded Access Grant Scholarships to 140 youth from 104 eligible families, including 89 awards for County Parks' Learn to Swim Program and 24 awards for a full session of Pool Guards. Other awards covered sports, nature or other programming offered by Santa Cruz County Parks.