the Fresh Air fund

because a summer can last a lifetime™

The Fresh Air Fund has provided free summer experiences to more than 1.8 million New York City children from low-income communities since 1877. Each summer, thousands of children visit volunteer host families in rural and suburban communities along the East Coast and Southern Canada or attend six Fresh Air camps in upstate New York. Young people also participate in year-round leadership and educational programs. The Fresh Air Fund is an independent not-for-profit agency.

Fresh Air Children

Children are eligible to participate in The Fresh Air Fund's free programs based on financial need and are registered by social service and community organizations in all five boroughs of New York City.

The Fresh Air Fund's Summer Programs

Friendly Towns Program

Fresh Air boys and girls visit volunteer host families for one-or two-week visits in rural, suburban and small town communities along the East Coast and Southern Canada. Children learn to swim, pick blueberries, build sandcastles on the beach, ride bikes and discover the wonders of the nighttime sky. Many Fresh Air children are re-invited to stay with the same host family year after year and form friendships that last a lifetime. Children on first-time visits are seven to 13 years old. Reinvited children may continue through age 18 and often enjoy extended trips.

- A committee of volunteer leaders supervises each Friendly Town community.
- Committee members interview host families, conduct home visits and check references. Host families also undergo background checks.
- There is no "typical" Fresh Air Fund host family, and there are no financial requirements for hosting a Fresh Air child. The Fund covers the cost of transportation and insurance.

Summer Camping Program

Five of The Fresh Air Fund's camping programs take place year-round on The Fund's Sharpe Reservation, which has over 2,000 acres of wilderness property, in Fishkill, NY, 65 miles north of New York City. Special features at Sharpe include a planetarium, model farm and nutrition center, wilderness trails, and ropes courses. Camp Junior at Harriman State Park in memory of Lesandro "Junior" Guzman-Feliz is The Fund's sixth camp, in partnership with New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Palisades Interstate Park Commission and the Bronx Borough President.

Each summer, over 3,000 New York City children learn and grow through immersive outdoor experiences. For two weeks, campers swim and row boats on the lake, stargaze, hike nature trails and learn about animals and where their food comes from at the camp farm and nutrition center. Campers return home with more confidence, new skills and new friends. During the school year, students participate in year-round programs and weekend camping retreats.

- Camp Anita Bliss Coler (ABC) is for girls, nine to 15 years old.
- Camp Hayden-Marks Memorial is for boys, nine to 12 years old.
- Camp Hidden Valley is for boys and girls with and without special needs, eight to 12 years old.
- Camp Junior is for boys and girls, ages nine to 13 years old, who live in the Bronx.
- Camp Mariah is for boys and girls in 7th to 9th grades and named in honor of Board member Mariah Carey for her generous support.
- Camp Tommy is for 12- to 15-year-old boys and is named in honor of Tommy Hilfiger for his generous support.

Academic Enrichment and Leadership Programs

Career Awareness Program

The Fresh Air Fund's Career Awareness Program is designed to help New York City adolescents understand the relationship between school and work and how to make positive choices that will impact their futures.

- Students apply in the 6th grade and begin summer camp sessions when entering 7th grade.
- The year-round program includes weekend camping trips and an intensive three-and-a-half-week summer session at Camp Mariah.
- Students participate in job shadowings hosted by a range of partners who share with students the "behind the scenes" view of an industry, after-school tutoring with volunteer mentors, and attend a career fair.
- After 9th grade, participants may continue to receive support through the College Connections Program.

College Connections Program

The College Connections Program provides high school students enrolled in The Fresh Air Fund's academic enrichment and leadership development programs with the resources, support and tools needed to enter and complete college. The program builds a strong network of support for students as they enter college and maintains a high level of engagement with them until they graduate. Many students are the first in their family to attend college.

- Students in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades are guided through the process of selecting, enrolling, financially preparing for and transitioning into a successful college career.
- The program provides SAT and other test preparation courses, college visits, as well as financial literacy and planning workshops for both students and parents.
- Students are matched with mentors who provide support and guidance throughout their college experience.

Teen Leadership Program

The Fresh Air Fund's Teen Leadership Program for Girls offers New York City girls, ages 13 to 17, a safe, nurturing environment to focus on their future goals. Campers are challenged to develop their leadership skills and express themselves within an emotionally safe and supportive environment.

- The goal is to engage girls during their formative teenage years in constructive, year-round activities to develop their self-esteem, financial literacy, and problem- solving and communications skills.
- The Precious Center for Teen Leadership at Camp ABC provides a home for the program during both the summer and academic year.
- During the academic year, students participate in the Young Women's Giving Circle (YWGC), a youth-led program that teaches girls about the importance of community service and the power of philanthropy.

Counselors-in-Training

The Counselors-in-Training (CIT) program provides an important transition on the journey from camper to counselor. CITs develop leadership, team-building and communication skills through intensive skill-building and child development workshops centered on professional growth and self-exploration. A highlight of the program is a four-day, 32-mile hike along the Appalachian Trail.

Volunteer Groups

The Fresh Air Fund has an active group of New York City volunteers and corporate partners. Volunteers play a vital role by supporting Fresh Air children year-round and giving generously of their time, talent and creativity. They become children's role models and mentors by offering guidance, support and inspiration. Tutors and mentors meet weekly with students in the Career Awareness and College Connections programs, while other volunteers help with outreach efforts and much more. To volunteer, call (212) 897-8900 or visit www.FreshAir.org.

Sharpe Reservation

The Fresh Air Fund's Sharpe Reservation has more than 2,000 acres of beautiful land with lakes, ponds, streams and hiking trails through the woods. Located in the Hudson Highlands near Fishkill, NY, Sharpe Reservation is the site of five of The Fresh Air Fund's summer camps. During the rest of the year, camp facilities are available for rent and nearly 18,000 people from community and school groups visit each year.

Fresh Air Fund Contributions

The Fresh Air Fund is a not-for-profit agency, dependent primarily on support from private contributions. It costs The Fresh Air Fund $1,113.00 for a child to visit with a volunteer host family and $2,014.00 to send a child to Fresh Air camp. Over 75% of The Fund's contributions come from individual donors. Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to The Fresh Air Fund, 633 Third Avenue, 14th Floor, New York, NY 10017. Families who wish to be hosts or parents who would like to sign up their children may call The Fresh Air Fund at (800) 367-0003 or visit www.FreshAir.org.

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