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***Mayor Fulop Announces More Than 1,300 Jersey City Children and Teens Enjoying Summer Season with FREE Recreation Summer Camps For as Part of Expanded Programming***

***Program Employs Nearly 200 youth throughout Jersey City, while providing educational and fun learning experiences for children and teens***

**JERSEY CITY – Mayor Steven M. Fulop and the Department of Recreation announced today that Jersey City’s Summer Fun Camps are providing free recreational and educational activities for more than 1,300 children and teens during July and August at 13 sites throughout Jersey City. The program is also part of Mayor Fulop’s expanded Summer Works program, providing employment for nearly 200 high school and college students.**

“Our Summer Fun Camp is an exciting opportunity for Jersey City children and teens to get active during the summer months, learn new skills and make new friends,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “This is another great example of how our administration continues to grow recreational programming for our youth while also providing job opportunities and enrichment programs for all of our residents.”

Throughout the summer, the young campers will participate in numerous recreational activities, including: swimming, softball clinics, golf training, arts and crafts, as well as board games, fishing, Double Dutch and other activities. Breakfast and lunch is also served daily by the Summer Food program run by the Department of Recreation.

Each Summer Fun campsite will host up to 100 local youth, and will be under the supervision of twelve youth camp counselors, two college counselors, and one adult supervisor. Youth camp counselors assist in directing all camp activities with the support and leadership of adult supervisors and serve as role models for the younger participants.

“This program not only provides our youth with a summer camp for learning and recreation, but also teaches our young residents the importance of maintaining a job so they can develop professional and time management skills,” said **Mayor Fulop**.

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The program's mission and goal is to provide a safe environment for all campers and staff, while providing children with a structured and supervised day of recreational activities that will contribute to their intellectual, social, emotional and physical growth. The program also aims to create experiences that will increase self-esteem, improve self-confidence and build new friendships.

Since taking office, Mayor Fulop has worked tremendously to both promote recreational activities and programs for City's youth and expand summer employment opportunities. More than 22 new recreational programs have been added, including: scuba, boxing, cricket, fitness programs, and programs for special needs athletes. Through youth employment programs such as Summer Fun Day Camp, 'Stop the Drop' and JC Summer Works, nearly 2,000 youth have been employed over the past two years and have received professional development workshops, and free certification programs.

"I am very happy to be afforded a program that my daughter truly enjoys to be a part of during the summer months," said **Amina Chaudhry, mother of a Recreation camper**. "My daughter truly takes pleasure in all the camp has to offer and has found it a rewarding experience."

With the support of local organizations, youth campers will also be able to participate in additional activities provided by our local Girl Scouts, music teacher Beth Cohen, gymnastics lessons by Liberty Cheer Academy, break dancing classes by Cuda Culture, and comedy shows presented by the Grand Falloons.

Also available this summer for Jersey City residents is Project G.L.A.D., for special needs students between the ages of seven to 22. This program operates Monday through Friday throughout July and August. Project G.L.A.D. provides summer recreational activities for special education students, who classify as cognitively impaired (mild or moderate) or orthopedically impaired. While attending the program, breakfast and lunch will be provided for each child, as well as free transportation if needed.

"I am so thankful that my daughter has been able to participate in the Recreation summer camp program as it allows her the chance to utilize and develop her special gifts and skills," said **Jacqueline McLeod, mother of Recreation summer camper**. "This program is a great benefit for me and my daughter because ordinarily this opportunity would not be afforded to her due to her special needs."

**For more information please contact the Department of Recreation at [201-547-5003](tel:201-547-5003) or visit the City's website at [jerseycitynj.gov/summerfun/](http://jerseycitynj.gov/summerfun/)**

**All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Steven M. Fulop at [201-547-4836](tel:201-547-4836) or [201-376-0699](tel:201-376-0699).////**

*Photo caption: Jersey City children participate in hula-hooping and basketball activities as part of the Recreation Department's Summer Fun program, that provides free recreational and educational activities to more than 1,300 children during July and August. (photo credit: City of Jersey City)*

