

CURTIS PARK SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIP AT MAC



Research finds that summer breaks set back student academic growth and that children from poorer backgrounds are disproportionately impacted. Middle- and upper-class parents who are active in their child's education often sign their kid up for classes, tutoring sessions or spend time engaging them in educational activities at home. However, the same is not true for children whose parents are working day and night just to put food on the table. Low-income parents are often too preoccupied with providing food and shelter, and they don't have the time or the money to attend to their child's educational needs outside of the academic year.

Jen and Chris Riedl, a MAC family, founded the program in 2019 in hopes of crowdfunding a larger scholarship fund that would allow opportunities for more children in the Curtis Park neighborhood to have the MAC summer camp experience.

Why Donate?

Summer Camp at The Montessori Academy of Colorado (MAC) is a transformational opportunity for Curtis Park neighborhood children from low income families to attend MAC summer camp. Donations from families and businesses will establish the Curtis Park Summer Scholarship Fund to provide 100% of the tuition for low-income Elementary students to attend MAC's summer camp. The amount of the fund determines how many children can receive a scholarship.



Opportunity

It's believed that as many as 66% of children do not have access to summer educational opportunities putting them even more behind their peers who are continuing their education during the summer.



Social & Emotional

A 2005 study of 80 camps by the American Camp Association (ACA) found significant growth in children's social-emotional skills after a session of summer camp. Not connected to the commitments of the school day, summer camps can dive head-first into social-emotional learning.



Skillsets

Camp staff, parents, and children reported increases in children's self-esteem, independence, leadership, friendship skills, social comfort, values and decision-making skills when attending summer camp.

Summer Camp at MAC

MAC's 2021 Summer Camp was a grassroots program designed to support and enrich children ages 5-11. A big part of a summer camp experience at MAC is using public transportation and walking from place to place to explore the city. There were four camps, each two weeks long, through the months of June to August. The theme of the camp was "The City is Our Playground." It encapsulated all aspects of the schools location, the surrounding community, the city and Colorado living. The first camp was TAG, You're It: Graffiti Camp. MAC used the RINO Art District to teach students about the art of graffiti and brought in artist Jonathan Miner to teach the skills of creating meaningful graffiti. The students then designed a mural that lives on the side of the schools building. The second camp was Into The Woods, where children learned leadership and wilderness skills. MAC worked with REI professionals to learn about different types of camping equipment and survival skills with an end goal of day-camping at the historical Curtis Park where students practiced the skills they acquired. The third camp was called Never Summer Surf Camp where campers walked away with an understanding of surfing culture, water safety, and Colorado water sports including stand up paddle boarding. The final camp was called The Secret Garden. Children learned about urban gardening, visited The Hudson Gardens, Numbers in Nature at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, and made many observations of the gardens in the Five Points neighborhood. Children planted fall vegetables, created bird houses and painted animal rocks for MAC's outdoor spaces.

Summer Camp Expenses

2021 Summer Camp Tuition was \$3,700 per student, including after care. In addition, since MAC's Integrated Kindergarten and Elementary program are on a 9 month schedule, staff salary for the summer, as well as materials and topic experts, incur costs to provide a robust, quality camp.

Staffing: \$28,500

Materials and Topic Experts: \$35,000

To donate, visit give.tmaoc.com and select the **Curtis Park Summer Camp campaign**.

*"My child said that she enjoyed getting to meet new friends, had so much fun, and liked exploring new activities. She really misses all of her great teachers."
- Parent of Curtis Park Summer Camp Scholarship*



*"It was a great transition for us coming from a program that our daughter had been comfortable in to something new and exciting. The growth that happened during the summer camp was exponential. She became more independent with her daily activities. I noticed her ability to handle her peers and friendships improved with more confidence. The activities were thoughtfully planned and age appropriate. My daughter loved the variety. Getting in the community and taking walks around the city were her favorite. This program was an amazing opportunity for us and we were so happy to be a part of it."
- Parent of Curtis Park Summer Camp Scholarship*

The Montessori Academy of Colorado is a metropolitan school that engages each child through innovative academics, exploration of character, and a fearless, forward mindset.

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