

Leisure Bucks - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q. What is Leisure Bucks?

- A. Leisure Bucks is the City of Modesto's financial assistance program for low-income youth, low-income disabled adults and low-income senior citizens. It will pay for 90% of fee for the majority of the City of Modesto programs advertised in the Activity Guide or those of cosponsored youth organizations. Assistance is limited to \$50.00 per fiscal year.

Q. How does an applicant qualify?

- A. Applicants may qualify 2 different ways: by income or address. **Income** - The Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) provides income guidelines which vary along with the number of family members. These guidelines are posted on both the Leisure Bucks flyer and application. Yearly household income is taken from the adjusted gross income portion on the federal 1040 tax return (Line 37). Families will also be required to provide 3 current consecutive paystubs. Families that are receiving TANF are automatically qualified in most cases. See application for more information. **Address** - HUD annually designates certain areas of Modesto as Low-Income Target Neighborhoods. On the reverse side of the Leisure Buck application those areas are listed by street. Families who are in those neighborhoods are automatically qualified and simply need to verify their residence on that street with one of the forms of address verification listed on the application.

Q. Are foster children eligible?

- A. Yes. Foster children automatically qualify for this program. Foster parents must submit a copy of the placement order from either a court, judge or other child placement social service office along with their application.

Q. How does the program work?

- A. Leisure Bucks runs on a fiscal year basis of July 1 to June 30 rather than a calendar year. As of July 1 each year parents/guardians may apply for their children with a one page application and 3 areas of verification: Address, age/guardianship, and Income. Generally within 2 weeks of submitting a complete application families will receive a Leisure Buck ID card in the mail. That card allows each recipient access to \$100 in financial assistance from the city. If the card is used to participate in a cosponsored youth organization then the family will be required to pay 10% of the program fees.

Programs costing less than \$50 - If a program costs \$35, the family would pay \$3.50 and the participants Leisure Buck account would be charged for the remaining \$31.50. Youth Sports Orgs (YSO) contact the Parks Recreation and Neighborhoods Department when their signups end to request a reimbursement for the cost of the program. Families are welcome to use any remaining funds on their account for other programs as long as they do not exceed a combined total \$50.

Programs costing more than \$100 - If a program costs more than \$50 the family is responsible to pay the full amount exceeding the amount that Leisure Bucks covers. For example if the cost is \$75.00 to participate in an activity, the family is responsible to pay \$25.00, and the Leisure Buck account would be charged \$50.00.

Q. What programs may Leisure Bucks be used for?

- A. Leisure Bucks may be used for most classes and programs listed in the City of Modesto Activity Guide (3 guides per year) or for any Cosponsored Youth Sports Organization activity. Families can contact the individual groups to find out if they are cosponsored, or may ask the PR&N Customer Service Unit office staff.