

B. E. S. T.

(Best Ever Summer Time)

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide for those middle school children, who would most benefit, a rewarding and enriching opportunity to improve academic performance, foster new friendships, and share challenging and inspiring experiences with the overall objective of increasing their skills, and consequently their self-confidence and self-worth.

VISION STATEMENT

To become a model nationwide for similar programs by encouraging their development and assisting in their successful growth.

HISTORY AND HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUEST PROGRAM

Efforts leading to the creation of the Quest (now BEST) Program commenced late in 2010 following concern among members of the Jaffrey/Rindge Rotary Club to form a service program which would meet an important need of the two communities and would command the enthusiastic and collegial involvement of the entire club membership. A club task force was formed early in 2011 to consider various service options. The task force ultimately endorsed the concept of a free summer camp program to be located on the Franklin Pierce University campus and combined with an emerging effort by the Jaffrey/Rindge School System to provide additional learning support to deserving middle school students. The Rotary Club membership was convinced that this collaborative effort by the three organizations would be very effective and endorsed it unanimously. The Jaffrey/Rindge Quest Program rapidly took shape and launched a very successful first year of operation in July, 2011, followed one year later in July, 2012 by a larger and equally successful program. It represents a partnership led by the Rotary Club membership of approximately 50 men and women in collaboration with the Jaffrey/Rindge School District and Franklin Pierce University. Participation in the program is provided by the full Rotary Club membership, School District administration and teachers, Franklin Pierce professionals, and community volunteers.

The program offers each camper the combination of additional academic support together with a free and enriching summer camp experience. The daily schedule involves a combination of morning academic classes designed to strengthen student proficiency in the basic subjects and an afternoon filled with a wide range of camp activities including athletics, exposure to arts, crafts, and a complete waterfront program. A high standard for camp safety and mentoring is maintained through adherence to a 1:5 adult to camper ratio, which assures that each camper receives individual attention. This seamless integration of academics and fun, which values both, is consistent with the Quest mission.

LOGISTICS

The Rotary Club provides:

- Funding raising campaigns to support the entire camp program, all activities, meals, and supplies.
- Management and Administration. Staffing and leadership of camp activities, including the vetting, training, recruitment and scheduling of Rotarians and Non-Rotarians as needed.
- Mentoring to develop and foster Rotarian/Student relationships designed to improve camper self-worth in a safe and nurturing environment.

The School System provides:

- Selection of campers based upon who will benefit most from the program.
- School administration and teaching staff to direct the academic program and assist in the camp recreational activities.
- Transportation of campers to and from camp and to special programs.

The University provides:

- All necessary campus resources including accommodations for full camp assemblies, classrooms, Indoor/outdoor recreational facilities and a complete lake waterfront site.
- Cafeteria/dining facilities including food (lunch) and other meals as requested. Meal costs paid by the Rotary.
- Professional support as needed .