

Why Affordable and Accessible Summer Camps/Programs Matter



Summer camps offer children more than just a way to pass the time – they provide a structured, enriching environment that supports their development in many ways.



1. Social Development and Friendships

Camps bring together children from diverse backgrounds, encouraging them to build friendships, learn teamwork and develop communication skills. These interactions help children grow socially and emotionally, fostering empathy, cooperation and confidence.

2. Physical Activity and Outdoor Play

With increasing screen time and sedentary habits at home, camps offer an outlet for physical activity. From sports and games to nature hikes and water play, children stay active and healthy while having fun.

3. Learning Through Play

Camps integrate educational elements into engaging activities – whether it's science experiments, arts and crafts or leadership challenges. This keeps young minds stimulated and helps prevent the "summer slide" in academic skills.

4. Independence and Resilience

Being in a camp setting encourages children to make decisions, try new things and solve problems independently. These experiences build resilience and self-esteem, preparing them for future challenges.

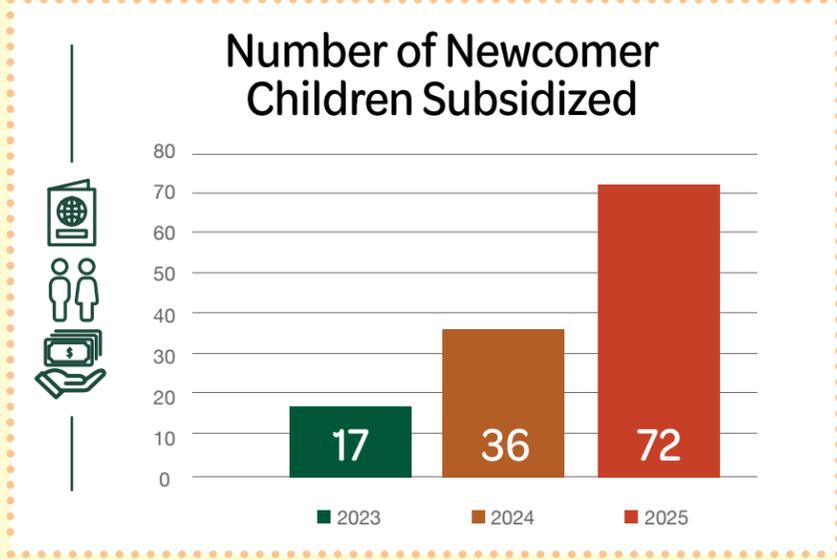
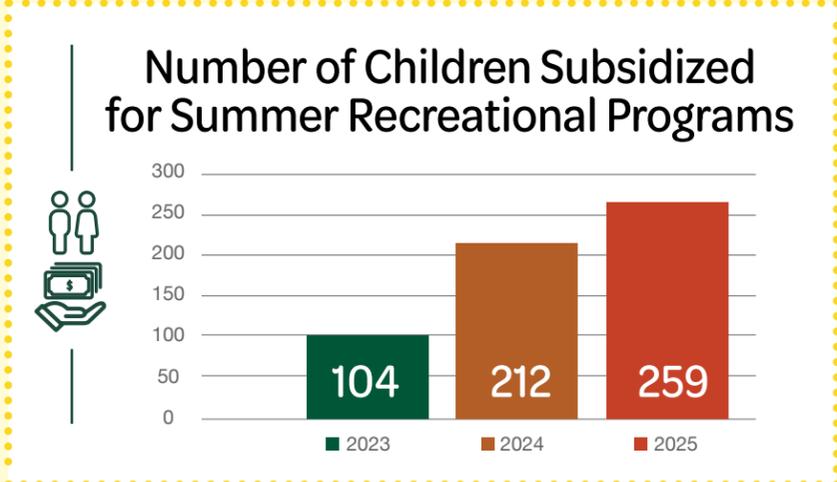
5. Safe and Supportive Environment

Camps are staffed by trained professionals who create a safe, inclusive space for all children, including those with special needs or newcomers to the community. This ensures every child feels valued and supported.

6. Relief for Families

For working parents or caregivers, camps provide reliable daytime supervision, reducing stress and ensuring children are engaged in meaningful activities rather than being isolated or bored at home.

Summer camps are a powerful tool for nurturing well-rounded, confident and socially connected children. Investing in camp and recreational experiences is investing in a child's future. For this reason, the City of Sudbury's Children Services and Parks and Recreation departments, in partnership with the Sudbury Manitoulin Children's Foundation, have strived to maximize the number of children able to access and benefit from recreational programming throughout our community.



↑ 250%
From 2023 to 2025, increased the number of subsidized children by 2.5x (250%).

6 Weeks
On average, each child approved for subsidy attended 6 weeks of summer programming in 2025.

\$235,000
Cost for subsidy program for summer 2025 was \$235,000; 97% being covered by the Fee Subsidy Program and only 3% covered through parental contributions

78%
78% of participating children are fully subsidized.