



# TREDYFFRIN TOWNSHIP PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## WINTER RECREATION PROGRAM UPDATE

(November 14, 2017) In response to recent resident concern regarding the Winter Recreation Program, the Township wishes to provide clarification to the decision and possible next steps:

The Winter Recreation Program had over 233 participants in the 2009/10 season. Since that time, it has declined to about 150+ for the past few years with another decline to 133 this past season. After our advertising of the program again this year on our website, in the e-newsletter, and our paper newsletter, we only have 34 total participants registered as of the date of this release – a significant drop off. In addition to the very low registration, the number of counselors who we normally have to staff the program has also dropped off significantly. Presently, we have only one counselor who was committed to working, well short of our 6 that we had last year.

In terms of cost, the rental fee for use of the gym is \$1,930.00 charged by Tredyffrin Easttown School District. The total registrations drive our personnel cost on the hiring of counselors. The cost of our Park and Recreation Coordinator's time is not calculated in the total cost to run the program. Our estimated costs with the rental fee and projected 6 counselors for this season is \$3,994.00.

With these challenges, the Parks and Recreation Board on November 8<sup>th</sup> agreed that it would be best to cancel the program to give the 28 who had already registered by that date the time to seek other activities. The Parks Board also wanted to make sure the Township would revisit the program next year and look into other ways to promote it. This was not a permanent removal of the program offering.

Based on the feedback in the past few days, the Township is attempting to reinstitute the program for the 2017/18 season. To do this we will need to reach approximately 135 participants and have the requisite number of staff to cover the costs involved with the program. We welcome the help of interested families to spread the word and sign up for the **program no later than November 30<sup>th</sup>**. At that point we will need to make a final decision to notify the School District about our space rental. If we meet our necessary goals, we will continue to accept registrations through December 8<sup>th</sup> as we have in the past.

If you are interested in the program, or have someone who is interested in a counselor position, please reach out to Hilliary Mallory at 610-408-3626.

We appreciate the feedback and hope this information provides helpful background and opportunity for this program to continue in the 2017/18 winter season

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