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March 30, 2018

Dear Educator,

The National Federation for Just Communities of Western New York (NFJC) is pleased to announce its 38th Annual “**Sheriff & Youth Live-In Camp**” for the summer 2018. A unique leadership and community building experience, this five-day residential program will be held at Cradle Beach Camp, in Angola, NY. Thirty (30) young leaders, ages 13-16, from across WNY will be invited to attend this year’s camp, which will be held from **August 20th - 24th, 2018**.

There is no charge at all to participate in the camp, and it will provide young leaders from across our county the opportunity to strengthen the bonds of our community. Erie County Sheriff’s Deputies will serve as the camp’s counselors, and they will engage with the campers in honest dialogue about the traditional relationship between youth & law enforcement and ways to better work together. For many of the youth, this will be the first time they will get to see a law enforcement officer as a real person with a stake in our community.

This is a powerful program with a long tradition; one that truly opens the hearts and minds of its participants. Despite its name, it’s also not a boot camp experience of any kind; it’s a summer camp and it’s a lot of fun. Campers and Counselors will laugh and share together as they hike, swim, play many sports, enjoy crafts, and have campfire conversations. The intent is that the impact of their shared experiences will be multiplied in their communities when they return to their homes and schools. *Students will be selected based on their interest/involvement in school and community activities and their desire to interact with both those of diverse backgrounds and the deputies.*

Enclosed are the application forms (all forms may be duplicated), and we request that you recommend *no more than 5 students* who would like to attend and who would benefit from attending this camp program. Space is limited, so please advise those whom you recommend that admission is not guaranteed. **It is also important that applicants be available to attend camp the week of August 20th.** The deadline for submitting completed applications for this program is **June 15, 2018.**

If you have any questions regarding this program, please either call me at our office or visit our website, www.nfjcwny.org. Details of the week, including transportation to and from the camp, will be provided to those who are accepted.

We look forward to working with your students, and we truly appreciate your support of our programs.

Sincerely,

Marc L. Rummenie
Program Director
mrummenie@nfjcwny.org

A Just Community Begins With Me

The National Federation for Just Communities of Western New York (NFJC) is a human relations organization dedicated to overcoming racism, bias, and discrimination by building understanding, respect and trust through education, advocacy and community involvement.

