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April 19, 2019

Dear Educator,

The National Federation for Just Communities of Western New York (NFJC) is pleased to announce its 39th Annual “**Sheriff/Youth Camp**” for the summer 2019. A unique leadership and community building experience, this four-day residential program will be held from **August 26th – 29th, 2019** at the beautiful Cradle Beach Camp in Angola. Camp is for young leaders **entering grades 8 through 11**, and roughly 30 students from across WNY will be invited to participate.

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.

Enclosed are the application forms, 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. 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. 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 26th.** The deadline for submitting completed applications for this program is **June 19, 2019.**

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