SCOPE AT A GLANCE

OUR HISTORY
Summer Camp Opportunities Promote Education (SCOPE) is an independent, 501C3 nonprofit organization that has provided summer camp scholarships for more than 20,000 children from low-income communities since 1991. Each year hundreds of children in need receive the benefits of summer camp through funds raised from foundation and corporate donors, as well as individual gifts and special events. SCOPE is expanding nationally from its base in the New York Tri-State area and has affiliates in the Midwest, Southeast and Southwest regions.

In 2011, SCOPE Southeast was formed to meet the growing needs of the Southeast region. Through local fundraising events, individual gifts, foundation and corporate support. SCOPE Southeast provided support for enriching summer camp experiences to over 50 children in Florida in the summer of 2012.

OUR MISSION
SCOPE’s mission is to provide children in need the edge to succeed in life through the summer camp experience. We accomplish this by funding summer camp scholarships at nonprofit, resident camps where children will benefit from a positive, safe and healthy environment led by excellent adult role models, who will help them develop their full potential.

OUR PROGRAM
The cornerstone of SCOPE’s program is to provide camp scholarships to children in need to attend nonprofit overnight camps which are accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA). Eligibility guidelines require that all SCOPE campers must qualify for the USDA Free or Reduced Lunch Program, and be enrolled in public school. All SCOPE campers make a commitment to stay in school in order to return to camp summer after summer. As an added incentive, campers who continue in the SCOPE camp scholarship program and graduate from high school will receive a scholarship to attend college or an approved vocational school through the Sanford Lavitt Education Fund.

OUR BELIEF
Summer camp is an essential component of the year-round educational continuum and plays a critical role in helping children from underserved communities to thrive. While their more affluent peers are often enrolled in summer camps and programs that strengthen and reinforce learning, the vast majority of children in low-income communities have little or no access to these opportunities, resulting in an enormous achievement gap. SCOPE bridges this gap by making summer camp accessible to as many deserving children as possible.

There is ample evidence regarding the positive outcomes of summer camp. While unsupervised children run the risk of losing academic ground or, worse, getting into trouble in potentially dangerous urban settings, children who attend well-designed summer camps can participate in educational experiences that offer artistic, musical and athletic experiences; adventurous outdoor environments; and excellent adult role models. In a recent study of youth outcomes conducted by ACA, the benefits of summer camp include enhanced positive identity and confidence; better social, physical and cognitive skills; and increased independence and leadership. These skills are related to academic achievement and can build a resiliency against negative behaviors that may surface later in children’s lives.

OUR GOAL
SCOPE is proud to work as a partner in the lives of children. By opening the door to summer camp opportunities and our focus on education, and through our long-term commitment to our SCOPE campers, we seek to inspire and empower them to make positive contributions to their communities and become self-sustaining adults.