

GUARDIAN

NASHVILLE

116 Wilson Pike Cir Unit #235 Brentwood, TN 37027



Guardian Project is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that provides full youth Jiu Jitsu scholarships at zero cost to families.

Guardian Nashville supports underprivileged teens across the city to train jiu jitsu and have a team of mentors and support behind them.

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www.guardiangym.org/nashville

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This grant proposal is for the sole purpose of supporting Guardian Nashville.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide youth with free Jiu Jitsu training as a gateway to mentorship, fitness, confidence, and a strong community.

The Guardian Project (a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization) was founded in 2015 by Ben Kovacs and Joel Lunenfeld, two friends who had both found martial arts to be transformative in their own lives. Guardian provides free-access Brazilian Jiu Jitsu (BJJ) to underprivileged youth, combining the power of mentorship with the community and discipline in martial arts. Our goal is to create a safe space that youth can come to after school, where they can find friends, exercise, learn self defense, and gain authentic mentorship from adult role models who are invested in the same passion. The low-income families we support are historically underserved and often do not have access to high quality after-school programs, especially in Nashville Tennessee, where cost-of-living is higher than ever. Youth students who receive a Jiu Jitsu scholarship with Guardian Nashville have a safe place to go every day year round to develop themselves with the support of coaches and a team behind them.

OUR STORY

Initially starting as a singular gym and expanding through youth Jiu Jitsu scholarships, Guardian has successfully branched out to eleven global locations, touching the lives of over 1100 youths since opening our doors. The transformative nature of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu imparts fitness, confidence, discipline, and a sense of communal inclusion, constructing a reassuring and elevating space for youths who may typically be excluded from premium after-school programs. The persistence and remarkable growth seen in our participants have fueled the proliferation of the Guardian Project. This progression enables us to persistently provide paths to friendship, self-enhancement, and a fortified team setting to those necessitating such, thus reflecting our lasting dedication to fostering the all-encompassing progression of youths in economically challenged settings. This proposal specifically focuses on our Nashville chapter which welcomes underprivileged teens 14 years of age and older to have full participation in 10th Planet Nashville's adult program surrounded by authentic mentorship through their adult teammates and coaches.

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Amount Requested: 10,000

Funding Purpose: Support 10 underprivileged teens scholarships and training gear at Guardian Nashville.

Through Guardian Nashville's partnership with 10th Planet Nashville Jiu Jitsu Academy, we are dedicated to providing full scholarships and essential training gear to underprivileged teens in the heart of Nashville Tennessee. Our program recognizes the unique challenges that these young individuals face, growing up in an area where adversity often overshadows opportunity.

Under the dedicated guidance of Coach Tim Freeman, a respected black belt under Sergio Silva, our students experience unwavering support that extends far beyond the mats.

Unfortunately, despite the wonderful music and food culture this city has to offer, crime does not stay away. Nashville faces profound challenges, with many youth at risk of getting entangled in gangs, crime, and other detrimental activities. It's imperative that we intervene to steer these young lives toward more positive trajectories. Our team is dedicated to shaping the minds of our youth, cultivating resilience, responsibility, and community engagement, ultimately transforming them into productive and compassionate adults.

Our program goes beyond preventing youth from becoming victims or jeopardizing their futures; it's about building a tight-knit and supportive community that imparts enduring values.



Guardian Nashville BJJ Scholarship Budget Proposal

Objective: Fund essential training gear and youth scholarships for underprivileged youth to join the Guardian Nashville Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu program for one year.

Total Budget: \$10,000

1. **Youth Scholarships Description:** Covering the tuition for Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu classes and essential training sessions for one year for ten underprivileged youth. Cost per student per year: \$900 Total for ten students (1 year): \$9,000
2. **Training Gear Description:** Providing each student with the necessary gear, which includes a gi (uniform), belt, rash guard, and protective equipment. Cost per student: \$100 Total for ten students: \$1,000

Total Costs: Youth Scholarships: \$9,000 Training Gear: \$1,000 Overall Total: \$10,000

Summary: With the provided budget of \$10,000, Guardian Nashville can effectively fund youth scholarships and essential training gear for ten underprivileged youth, allowing them to participate in our Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu program for one year. This comprehensive approach ensures their access to training and equipment, promoting growth, empowerment, and a brighter future for these young individuals in our community.



*Tim Freeman Owner and Head Instructor
of 10th Planet Nashville*

As we embark on the journey of launching the Guardian Nashville program, we are thrilled to begin this transformative endeavor. Our doors are now open, and we are ready to welcome the first wave of young, low-income youth students who will be granted full scholarships. In the heart of Nashville, we are establishing a nurturing second home for these aspiring individuals, offering them a unique opportunity to shape a brighter future.

Though we are just beginning, our commitment to these young minds is unwavering. We've already started the process of incorporating youth students from our waiting list into Guardian Nashville. It's been truly heartwarming to witness the initial stages of their personal growth and transformation.

Our students are already demonstrating resilience, overcoming challenges, and gaining confidence. They're on their way to improved school performance and higher levels of fitness.

None of this would have been possible without the support and shared vision of our partners and the community. Their dedication has been instrumental in getting us to this point, and we are excited to sustain and build upon this momentum as we launch this program.

In these early stages of this scholarship, we are seeking to build support, gather allies, and rally those who believe in the power of positive transformation for young teens. Together, we aim to create a lasting impact on the youth of Nashville, offering them hope, empowerment, and a life path filled with promise and opportunity. The journey has just begun, and we are eager to make a difference in the lives of these young individuals, setting them on a path toward a brighter future.