

MONMOUTH COUNTY 2017 COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR
Courtney Coford



Courtney Coford is currently in her tenth year as a school counselor at Barkalow Middle School in Freehold Township. She is also the SAC (Student Assistance Coordinator) for Freehold Township's K-8 school district. Courtney grew up locally in West Long Branch and graduated from Red Bank Catholic High School. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources from the University of Delaware, and earned her Master's in School Counseling at Montclair State University. Courtney also completed coursework for her Principal and Director of School Counseling Services endorsements from Montclair, and obtained her SAC certification through Monmouth University.

In addition to her various responsibilities as a school counselor at Barkalow, Courtney also serves on the Youth and Education Committee for the Freehold Municipal Alliance and is a member of the Traumatic Loss Coalition of Monmouth County. Courtney is a member of the executive board planning committee for JPC Children's Foundation, a non-profit organization that grants wishes for children with life-threatening medical conditions and their families. She is also involved with Cookie's Crumblers, a foundation that was started in honor of Gracie West, one of Courtney's students who was diagnosed with stage 4 advanced neuroblastoma. Courtney was recognized at the foundation's annual gala with the "Strong. Happy. Positive." award for her support of Gracie and her family throughout her years of various treatments. (Gracie has now been cancer free for over a year and is graduating from Barkalow in June!) Courtney was also the recipient of the Governor's Educator of the Year for the 2014-2015 school year. Courtney can regularly be found at Barkalow after school and in the evenings, cheering on her students at different events and activities. In addition, Courtney shares her love of theater with her students as the assistant director of Barkalow's school musical every year.

Courtney is a member of the New Jersey School Counselor Association, the American School Counselor Association, and the Association of Student Assistance Professionals of New Jersey. As a member of the Executive Board for the Monmouth County School Counselor Association for the past several years, Courtney serves as our Membership Chairperson.

Courtney is the oldest of 4 siblings and has two adorable nephews (and one more niece or nephew due any day!) that she adores. She can often be found at the dog park with her dog, Jovi. An avid concert attendee, Courtney loves live music, the Yankees and the Giants, travelling, spending time with friends and family and any time spent on the beach.