

Application



The 2016 Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences will be a four-week summer residential program held on University Park campus for academically talented and gifted high school students (rising seniors) from throughout Pennsylvania.

This program is free to participants and is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, and the state's Intermediate Units.

Program Contact Information:

Mailing Address:
PA Governor's School for the
Ag Sciences
Attention: Jenneth R. Layaou
101 Ag. Administration
Building
University Park, PA 16802

Phone: 814-865-7521
E-mail: PGSAS@psu.edu

Deadlines & Dates

Program Dates:
July 10– August 5, 2016

Application Deadline:
February 19, 2016

Program Decision Date:
March 25, 2016

Notification

Notification of final status in the Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences selection process will be made via email by March 25, 2016. An acceptance package will be sent to the applicant's home to begin program planning. The Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences (PGSAS) and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) cannot respond to requests for advance notice, individual assessments or appeals.

This application form expires on Feb. 19, 2016, and may not be used for submission after that date.

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Eligibility

- GRADE LEVEL AT TIME OF APPLICATION DEADLINE: Current junior high school student only.
- SCHOOL ENROLLMENT: Must currently attend a public, charter or non-public secondary school or be homeschooled.
- PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENCY: The primary full-time residence of least one custodial parent or legal, court-appointed guardian of the applicant must be in Pennsylvania. Military dependents based in Pennsylvania are eligible.
- COMMITMENT TO PROGRAM: If accepting an invitation to participate in the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences, the student must commit to being in residence for the full program, July 10 - August 5, 2016. Trips home or other absences are not allowed. Formal training unrelated to the curriculum (e.g. music practice, dance practice, or athletic training regimens for individual or team competitions) cannot be accommodated in the program.
- GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFICATION: Ineligibility (see above); lateness; failure to send application to the correct office; incompleteness of the application (it must be submitted in its entirety at one time); plagiarism; or falsification of information on the application.

Applicant Responsibilities

- DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST WEEK TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION.
- NOTIFY COUNSELOR AND TEACHER REFERENCES OF INTENTION TO FILE APPLICATION WELL IN ADVANCE OF DEADLINE. Discuss "pre" deadlines for completing work in order to send packet off on time. Homeschoolers should contact the PGSAS Program Office for specific instructions on who may complete the forms.
- REVIEW ALL FORMS BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE APPLICATION PROCESS.
- SUPERVISE COMPLETION: The applicant is responsible for staying in communication with the counselor and teacher reference to make sure the application is completed appropriately and sent off by the postmark deadline.
- DO NOT ADD UNSOLICITED REFERENCES, RECOMMENDATIONS OR MATERIALS. Send only those requested. Do not add newspaper clippings, photographs, research papers, certificates or other unsolicited materials. Extraneous letters of recommendation other than the teacher reference and the counselor's recommendation and other unsolicited materials will be removed from applications. The only exception is the optional extra letter of reference allowed if the applicant opts to respond to the Topical Essay C (1) (see page 4).
- UNDERSTANDINGS: The PA Governor's School for the Ag Sciences and the PA Dept. of Education cannot provide individual assessments or grant appeals to the selection process. Furthermore, the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences and the Pennsylvania Department of Education are not responsible for late, lost, and/or incorrectly addressed, incomplete or damaged applications.

Application Form Page 2

Application Procedure

PGSAS Application Required Parts

Part 1. Applicant Completed 2016 PGSAS Personal Data Form

The following three responses to items A, Band Care required. Staple your work to this form. An application missing any part may be disqualified for incompleteness. These responses receive emphasis in the selection process. You can review the selection criteria online <http://agsci.psu.edu/governors-school>

Part 2. Applicant's Extracurricular Resume (Attach to Application)

Format: Resume format, 3 page maximum, typed/word-processed, single- or double-spaced, letter quality font no smaller than 12 points. Your name should appear at the top of each page.

Prompt: Include extracurricular, ag/science-related activities, such as independent research projects or special study projects, or competitions in which you have been involved in the past two to three years in your school, community or personal pursuits. Identify your role in each. List awards and honors for science and/or agricultural science related achievements and the source, reason and date of each.

Part 3. Applicant completed Narrative Statement One (Attach to Application)

• Format: Essay format, 2 pages maximum, typed/word-processed, double-spaced, letter quality font no smaller than 12 points. Your name should appear at the top of each page. Title the essay "Narrative Statement."

• Prompt: Introduce yourself to the selection committee. Discuss why you wish to participate in the Pennsylvania Governor's School for Agricultural Sciences and what you hope to gain from an experience like the Governor's School. Be as specific as possible about why you are willing to spend four weeks of your summer to come to PGSAS, and why you think the committee should choose you. You may include information about your background, your interests, your pastimes (academic and non-academic) and any other aspects of your life that will aid the committee in understanding who you are and why you want to participate in PGSAS.

Part 4. Applicant completed Narrative Statement Two (Attach to Application)

Format: Essay format, 2 pages maximum, typed/word-processed, double-spaced, letter quality font no smaller than 12 points. Your name should appear at the top of each page. Choose from the following topics and title the essay with the keywords of the chosen topic.

Prompt: Select ONE of the following essay topic, and focus on that topic:

- (1) Science/Agricultural Achievement: Describe a science or agricultural related achievement of which you are most proud. Explain why you are particularly proud of it.
- (1) Most Influential Person or Event: What single person or event in your science or agricultural education has been the most influential in your decision to pursue a career in agriculture/science. Please be specific about why this person or event has been so influential.

Part 5. Teacher Form and Reference

Select one science or agricultural science teacher as per the guidelines on the respective forms, to serve as references. Fill out the information lines on the tops of the forms and give them to teachers. The teachers complete the forms and send them directly to the counselor, to maintain confidentiality.

Part 6. Guidance Counselor Form, Reference and Student Transcript

Fill out the information lines on the top of the form give the full form (pages 7-8) to counselor. (Homeschoolers, give Counselor form to the Home-school Evaluator.)

Part 7. Submission

Counselor should use checklist on page 6 for submission.

The counselor/evaluator sends the application to the Office of the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences, c/o, Jenneth R. Layaou, Director, 101 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802 no later than the postmark deadline of February 19, 2016.

No new information will be accepted after the deadline.

• **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED:** The applicant or the counselor/evaluator may include (DO NOT STAPLE) a SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED POSTCARD (NOT AN EMPTY ENVELOPE), with the words "PGSAS Application Received" for the acknowledgment of the receipt of the PGSAS application. If this has not been received three weeks after posting the application, contact the Information Line, (814) 865-7521 or e-mail PGSAS@psu.edu.



The Pennsylvania Governor's School
for the Agricultural Sciences

At

The Pennsylvania State University

Applicant Personal Data Form, Page 3
Part 1

Applicant Name _____
First Middle Last

Gender Male Female

Permanent Home Address _____
Street or Box Number, Street or Route, City, State, Zip

Home Telephone (____)____-____ Applicant Cell Phone Number (____)____-____

E-mail Address _____

Intermediate Unit _____ Applicant's Current Grade Level _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____
Month Day Year

Name of High School _____ Public Non-Public

Name of School District in which you reside (even if you do not attend a public school) _____

Optional Ethnicity Information: How do you identify yourself? Please check all that apply:
(This information is confidential)

- American Indian/Alaskan Native Black/African American Asian American
 Latino/Hispanic American Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander White American
 Other

Parent/Legal Guardian Information:

Mother/Legal Guardian's Name _____ Home Telephone (____)____-____

E-mail Address _____ Cell Phone Number (____)____-____

Father/Legal Guardian's Name _____ Home Telephone (____)____-____

E-mail Address _____ Cell Phone Number (____)____-____

Applicant's Statement and Signature

- I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, all of the information I have provided is accurate and that the work submitted is my own. I acknowledge that information about my selection to the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences and the projects I may develop there may be shared with the public.
- I understand that it is my responsibility to return this form and the required attachments to my guidance counselor.
- I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to stay in touch with my guidance counselor to ensure that the application is submitted in complete form, postmarked by the appropriate date and mailed to the PGSAS Program Office at the Pennsylvania State University.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Parent/ Guardian's Statement and Signature

- I have reviewed the information on this form and give my permission for my child to proceed with the application procedures. I authorize my child's school and its employees to release any information necessary for this application.
- I acknowledge that it is my child's responsibility to ensure that the application is submitted in complete form, postmarked by the appropriate date, and mailed to the PGSAS Program Office at the Pennsylvania State University, University Park campus.
- I understand that the application becomes the property of the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences (PGSAS) and cannot be returned. I am aware that the PGSAS and the PDE cannot respond to requests for individual assessments or appeals.

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____



The Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences

At

The Pennsylvania State University



Science/ Ag Science Teacher Form, Page 4

Applicant's Name _____

Name of Teacher _____ E-mail Address _____

Teaching Subject Area _____

1. How does the applicant compare in overall promise with other students whom you have taught during your career? Please check one statement below:

- Among the very best I have known
- Very good, but not the very best
- Average
- Below average

2. Please check one selection below to indicate your recommendation for the applicant for the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences:

- Highly Recommended
- Recommended
- Recommended with Reservations
- Not Recommended

3. For each item below, please assess the applicant by assigning one of the following values:
(A = exceptional B = above average C = average D = below average E = no opportunity to observe)

- ___ Analytical ability
- ___ Appropriate reaction to and use of criticism Initiative and independence
- ___ Written communication skills
- ___ Oral expression
- ___ Leadership qualities
- ___ Personal organizational skills
- ___ Interaction with others

4. Please write a statement about this applicant's strengths and weaknesses, explaining why you rated the applicant as you did. Please cite examples of outstanding contributions, achievements or challenges. Your response is important and will assist the selection committee in understanding if this student is ready for a sustained, intensive living/learning experience. You may use the space below or staple a letter to this form, Please check here if you are attaching a letter.

TEACHER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____



The Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences

At

The Pennsylvania State University



Guidance Counselor Form, Page 5

Applicant's Name _____

Name of Counselor _____ E-mail Address _____

1. Transcript

Attach the applicant's transcript to this form.

2. Attendance Record

Number of absences in the last full academic year: _____
(IMPORTANT: If the number exceeds 10, please state reason(s) and whether the number has remained high this year)

Number of tardies in the last full academic year: _____
(IMPORTANT: If the number exceeds 10, please state reason(s) and whether the number has remained high this year)

3. Academic Scoring and Standing

Please complete the following information, even if it appears on the transcript. If there are no PSAT or SAT scores to report, please explain why.

Class rank, if available _____ Class size _____ Grade Point Average _____ Scale _____

Test Scores: PSATs: Verbal/Critical Reading _____ Writing _____ Math _____ Date. _____

SATs: Verbal/Critical Reading _____ Writing _____ Math _____ Date _____

Comments: _____

4. Please check one selection below to indicate your recommendation for the applicant for the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences:

- Highly Recommended
- Recommended
- Recommended with Reservations
- Not Recommended

5. Comment on the applicant's special qualities, challenges or problems of which the selection committee should be aware. You are strongly encouraged to attach a separate letter. Check this box if attaching a letter

6. Signature

The information I have provided is complete and correct. I have read the Procedures and the Deadline and Submission information. I understand that an application may be disqualified if it is late, incomplete or sent to an incorrect agency. I understand that the applicant can be disqualified on the basis of grade level ineligibility, residency ineligibility, and previous Governor's School participation, application to more than two Governor's Schools in a year, plagiarism or falsification of information.

COUNSELOR'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Submission Checklist, Page 6

Application Checklist

- ⇒ Applicant Personal Data Form with Applicant and Parent/Guardian Signature
- ⇒ Applicant's Resume
- ⇒ Applicant Narrative Statement One
- ⇒ Applicant Narrative Statement Two
- ⇒ Teacher Form
- ⇒ Teacher Reference
- ⇒ Guidance Counselor Form
- ⇒ Guidance Counselor Recommendation
- ⇒ Transcript
- ⇒ Optional but strongly recommended: The counselor or the applicant may enclose (DO NOT STAPLE) a SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED POSTCARD (NOT AN EMPTY ENVELOPE) for acknowledgment of the receipt of the application packet.

Mail application to:

The Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences
c/o Jenneth R. Layaou, Director
101 Agricultural Administration Building
University Park, PA 16802

POSTMARK DEADLINE: February 19, 2016. Applications postmarked after February 19, 2016, will be **DISQUALIFIED**. Faxed or emailed transmissions will not be accepted.

Any questions about this application can be directed to Jenneth R. Layaou, pgsas@psu.edu. Thank you for your support.

