

HIGH MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE



Teacher Recommendation Form

TO THE STUDENT: Semester and Summer Term applications require two teacher recommendations, at least one of which should be from a current teacher in an academic subject. Gap and High Peaks Adventure applications require one teacher recommendation.

Applicant's Name: _____

School: _____

Program for which student is applying:

HMI Semester

The HMI Semester is unique opportunity for juniors in high school to spend a semester living and studying in the heart of the Colorado Rocky Mountains. HMI has three integral components: a rigorous academic program involving an honors- and AP-level curriculum; a wilderness program that includes three extended backpacking trips; and our residential life program in Leadville, Colorado.

HMI Summer Term

The HMI Summer Term is a six-week summer program for rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors that combines place-based academic courses with an extensive leadership development curriculum. The program includes two wilderness trips in the Colorado Rockies that allow students to continue their academic studies, develop community and practice their leadership skills.

HMI Gap

The HMI Gap is a 12-week semester spent exploring the rugged Rocky Mountains and wild Patagonia by foot and on rock. The semester combines outdoor educational activities with an emphasis on backcountry wilderness skills and rock climbing, international travel and cultural exploration, environmental field studies, and service-learning opportunities in collaboration with scientists and land managers. Students live and travel within a small, close-knit group of their peers and faculty.

High Peaks Adventure

The High Peaks Adventure is a two-week outdoor adventure in the Colorado Rockies for students who have completed 7th or 8th grade. The trip includes an extended backpacking expedition, mountain biking, rock climbing, and whitewater rafting.

TO THE TEACHER: Students do not need any prior camping experience to participate in High Mountain Institute programs, but should expect to carry all of their equipment in backpacks, live outdoors, and experience a wide range of weather conditions. We are seeking curious, motivated, and energetic students who are ready to work hard and try new things.

Please respond to the following questions. If you would prefer, you may opt to attach a letter of recommendation that addresses these topics.

1. What is your relationship to the applicant? How long have you known him or her?

2. What are the applicant's greatest strengths? Areas for improvement?

3. How would you describe the applicant as a student?

4. Please comment on the applicant's ability to get along with others, leadership skills, maturity, and sense of humor.

5. Backpacking expeditions may involve challenges related to physical strength, weather, and interpersonal dynamics. Given your experience of the applicant, how do you think he/she will manage those challenges?

6. Is there anything else you would like to add?

May we contact you for more information? Yes No

Home Phone #: _____ Work Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Name (please print): _____ Signature: _____

TO THE TEACHER: Please return this form/written letter of recommendation in a sealed envelope directly to the student OR e-mail the completed form/written letter of recommendation directly to HMI at admissions@hminet.org.

Applications for the HMI Semester, Summer Term, and Gap are due by February 15. Early application to the High Peaks Adventure is encouraged. Please feel free to contact the HMI Admissions Office at (719) 486-8200, ext 1 or admissions@hminet.org with questions or comments.

