

**The Tennessee Governor's School
for the
Agricultural Sciences**

June 4 – July 1, 2016

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION



Tennessee Department of Education

THE TENNESSEE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL

FOR THE AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

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Applications must be postmarked or electronically submitted to: sspeight@utm.edu by Dec. 1, 2015.
Fax: 731-881-7948 Attention: Suezane Speight

Mailing address: Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences
 University of Tennessee at Martin
 Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources
 253 Brehm Hall
 Martin, TN 38238

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences (TGSAS) offers gifted and talented high school students an intensive learning opportunity in the agricultural sciences. The program will be held on the campus of The University of Tennessee at Martin from **June 4 - July 1, 2016**. The TGSAS experience focuses on the importance of agriculture to the state and national economy. Emphasis is placed on experiential learning and laboratory exercises related to the agricultural sciences including production agriculture, precision agriculture, agricultural business, veterinary science, and natural resources management.

Students in the tenth and eleventh grades who would like to participate in a challenging, and high-intensity program should obtain an application from their school counselor. The resources of each school system should be utilized to the fullest extent to ensure that the best possible candidates meeting the criteria listed below receive applications. Nominations for the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences should be made by school counselors or principals at the high school level. The TGSAS review/selection committee will select the students who are accepted to attend.

II. COUNSELOR NOMINATING PROCEDURES AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

A. Nominating Criteria

General

The students most likely to profit from this unique living/learning experience will be expected to:

1. Meet ALL of the prerequisites for TGSAS
2. Display a high degree of motivation to participate during the entire program.
3. Possess the ability to cope with a curriculum that stresses creative conceptual thinking. Students must be willing to expend considerable time and effort in the course area selected.
4. Complete application materials and return them to the school counselor, who will mail or electronically submit the packet to the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences. (Address appears on page A)
5. Applications must be **postmarked or submitted electronically** no later than **December 1, 2015**.*
6. If an application is submitted electronically, the sender should verify that **ALL** pages were successfully sent. TGSAS will not be responsible for following up on missing pages or information.

***High School Counselors should set their own earlier deadlines so applications will not be late.**

Specific

1. **Nominees must have a GPA of 3.0 to be considered.**
2. Nominees should be emotionally mature and demonstrate evidence of high academic performance and a demonstrated involvement in agriculture.

Those attributes include:

- a. Curiosity as a keen observer and thriving on complexity.
- b. Ability to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate; open to new relationships; ability to generate alternatives and, take initiative
- c. Ability to learn rapidly, easily, and efficiently; retains and uses information.
- d. Ability to express himself/herself in writing, orally, and creatively.
- e. Appropriate sense of humor.
- f. Inquisitive and asks provocative questions.
- g. A record of out-of-school learning experiences or projects.
3. An official transcript must be included in the application materials. Honors, advanced placement, or similar courses should be indicated.
4. Teacher and counselor recommendations must be completed as indicated. Additional letters of recommendation are acceptable, but do not replace teacher and counselor references.

- B. **Completing the Application Materials:** Class rank, class size, GPA, numerical test scores, etc., must be provided by the school counselor, as available. While standardized test scores are not mandatory, counselors are asked to include this information if available. An official transcript must be included with the application. Students are asked to list two teachers to complete the Confidential Teacher Reference Forms. The school counselor will need to obtain the completed forms from the respective teachers. There is a space at the bottom of the Teacher Reference form to put the name of the school counselor to whom the form should be returned
1. Make sure applications are **complete**.
 2. Make sure pages are arranged in correct order.
 3. Make sure all pages are filled out, signed when appropriate, and attached including preferred confidential teacher references and the confidential school counselor letter of recommendation.
 4. Counselor contact information should be **completed entirely**.
 5. Make sure current transcript and question responses are attached.
 6. Make sure appropriate signatures are obtained.
 7. Make sure application is **postmarked or electronically submitted by December 1, 2015**.
 8. Student may keep a copy **excluding** the Confidential Teacher's Reference Forms and the Confidential School Counselor's Recommendation Form.
 9. **School counselor should keep one complete copy.**
 10. Completed applications should be mailed or electronically submitted by the **school counselor** to the Tennessee Governor's Schools for the Agricultural Sciences.
 11. **Applications submitted directly by students will not be accepted.**
 12. Class rank, class size, numerical test scores, etc., must be provided by the counselor, if available. Please note that while PSAT, SAT, and ACT scores are not mandatory for this year's candidates, school counselors are asked to include this information if available.

III. GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL CRITERIA, EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS, AND SELECTION PROCESS

- A. **CRITERIA:** From the total applications received by TGSAS, students selected to attend will be chosen in the following manner:
1. Every effort will be made to include an equal representation of qualified students from high schools in east, middle and west Tennessee.
 2. Criteria for selection are based upon the individual talents and academic ability of high school students who are presently attending tenth or eleventh grade in a Tennessee public or private secondary school, or are home schooled at that level and meet the prerequisites for TGSAS.
- B. **EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS:** The student most likely to profit from this unique living/learning experience will be expected to demonstrate the following:
1. **Complete proper application materials. Return those materials to the school counselor**, who will send the completed application packet to TGSAS via **electronic submission or U. S. mail and postmarked no later than December 1, 2015**.
 2. Display a high degree of motivation and commitment to participate in the program in its entirety.
 3. Possess the ability to cope with a curriculum that stresses creative conceptual thinking. Prospective students also must be willing to dedicate considerable time and effort in the course area selected
- C. **GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL SELECTION PROCESS:** The TGSAS Selection Committee is appointed by the Director and composed of individuals from University of Tennessee at Martin, who are associated with the program and outside individuals actively involved in the agriculture industry.

IV. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is eligible?

Eligible students must demonstrate high academic achievement and evidence of a profound interest in the agricultural sciences. They must meet all of the prerequisites as outlined on Page D, Section VI. Students must be juniors or seniors in the upcoming **2016 - 2017** academic year.

What does it cost?

TGSAS students, who are accepted via official application will receive a scholarship which covers all program expenses including tuition, dorm lodging, meals, and field trips. Transportation for day and overnight field trips as well as any overnight lodging, meals, and admission to TGSAS events or activities are also covered by the scholarship.

Students are responsible for their transportation to and from the University of Tennessee at Martin, and for personal items including prescribed medications. If the cost of transportation is a financial problem, the parent or legal guardian of the student should contact TGSAS at 731-881-7211 to determine if arrangements can be made.

When is the deadline for applications?

Applications must be electronically submitted or mailed and postmarked no later than the deadline date of **December 1, 2015**. School counselors may set an earlier deadline for materials to be returned to them so they have time to complete and submit by the deadline. School counselors should send all application materials directly to TGSAS. **Applications sent directly from students will not be considered.**

May a completed application be submitted prior to a deadline?

YES. Completed applications should be submitted as soon as possible. This helps the TGSAS Administrative Assistant start the review process without waiting for hundreds of applications to arrive on the deadline day.

What about the US Postal Service in terms of the deadline?

It sometimes takes a week for mail to arrive from one part of the state to the other. A postmark before or on the deadline date assures that an application will be accepted. When mailing an application, you may purchase the necessary service through the US Postal Service to acquire confirmation of receipt. You can also contact TGSAS to confirm that the application was received on time. **All applications will be acknowledged by mail upon receipt.**

Must TGSAS directors accept applications that are incomplete, late, or otherwise do not meet the prerequisites?

NO. The directors are under no obligation to accept applications that are incomplete, late, or do not otherwise meet the prerequisites. If an applicant does not meet the GPA requirement and/or other prerequisites, then the application will go into an ineligible file. TGSAS is not required to send any correspondence regarding ineligible applications. The TGSAS director realizes there are emergencies and unforeseen circumstances. In the event that a reasonable delay or unforeseen problem should occur, the SCHOOL PRINCIPAL should attach a letter explaining the situation and justifying why the application should be considered. We highly recommend a thorough review of the application before it is sent to alleviate this kind of problem.

How will the students be selected?

The TGSAS Selection Committee is appointed by the Director in consultation with the Tennessee Department of Education and composed of individuals from University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, who are associated with the program, and representatives from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, Tennessee Leadership Development Corporation. The committee will review each student's application materials, transcripts, personal data, and recommendations, seeking the most exceptional students. The review/selection committees will also select an adequate pool of alternates to assure having a highly qualified group of students for the **2016 class**.

Can students apply for more than one school?

Yes, but the student must obtain a general application from his/her counselor to apply for any of the Governor's Schools and then rank the schools in identical order on ALL applications submitted. (1 = most preferred, 2, 3, etc.) in order of preference. (This application may only be used to apply to the Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences.) However, since the dates of the programs overlap, students accepted to more than one school will have to decide which program they would like to attend. (**NOTE:** The School for the Arts does not encourage nor discourage students from auditioning in more than one art area. However, if a student chooses to do so, separate applications should be filled out for each area.)

If a student accepts an invitation to one Governor's School, will he/she have a chance to accept an invitation to another one later if vacancies occur?

No. Students need to make sure they are going to attend before they accept.

What do students do if invited to more than one Governor's School?

Each school to which students have been invited needs to be notified one way or the other whether or not the student plans to accept. Since there are only a small number of total spaces available, the invitations that are not accepted will then be offered to applicants on alternate lists. Your cooperation in responding in a timely manner is greatly needed and appreciated.

If a student attended a Governor's Schools last summer, may he/she apply to attend another this summer?

No. Anyone who previously attended a Tennessee Governor's School will not be accepted. Also, neither no-shows nor drop-outs from the previous year will not be allowed to reapply (without prior approval of the director.)

How does a student get specific information about individual Governor's Schools?

Each Governor's School has a website with school-specific information. Also, you may call or email the individual school. School counselors have contact information for each school and a list of directors. For general information, you may contact the state director AFTER you have read the most frequently asked Questions starting on page D.

What about activities outside of class? There will be a lot of them such as concerts, plays, movies, and special events scheduled for after hours and the weekends. Students will also be free to take part in any of the activities on campus (sports, swimming, running, etc.). Bring tennis racquets and basketball shoes!

Who are the instructors?

The instructors include outstanding university professors, agricultural industry experts, owners of successful farm operations, veterinarians, leadership experts, motivational speakers, scientists, etc.

Do students earn any special credits?

TGSAS will be awarded three (3) hours of college credit for each course successfully completed. Two courses will be offered.

Is transportation provided to/from church?

With signed parental permission: Transportation for students will be arranged to churches within the city limits of Martin; or students may also walk to churches within three blocks of the campus.

Does an up to date transcript need to be included?

Yes. This is a requirement. Since the deadline for the return of the applications may be before the semester grades are distributed, schools should provide the most recent grades available.

Can students with disabilities apply?

Yes, if they meet the criteria and reasonable accommodations can be made, they can apply and will be considered just as any other student who applies.

Must a student stay for the full program?

Yes. The program is intensive and highly individualized. Classes and special activities will be planned for the entire program, INCLUDING WEEKENDS. Absences from scheduled activities will not be permitted except in the case of emergencies, with permission from the director. Students **will not** be excused to attend other camps or seminars, take family vacations, attend weddings, have senior pictures taken, etc. Come prepared to stay, study, and have fun!

How many students will be selected?

Thirty-two (32) students will be selected for the 2016 TGSAS program.

When and how will students be notified of selections?

Notifications will be sent electronically or mailed to all students on February 5, 2016. Students will receive separate notification letters from each of the schools to which they applied. If an applicant does not meet the GPA requirement and/or other prerequisites, then the application will go into an ineligible file. TGSAS is not obligated to notify student's regarding ineligible applications

Once a student is notified of being selected as an alternate, when should the student expect to be contacted if a vacancy occurs.

Alternates may be contacted as early as March 15, 2016 or as late as April 22, 2016 for any available openings. Alternates must accept or decline the invitation by the TGSAS stated deadline to allow time to contact another alternate if necessary.

Why are requested email addresses so important to the application process?

Email addresses are important so the TGSAS staff can communicate quickly with counselors, parents, or applicants.

Since TGSAS dates conflict with other activities (Girls State, Boys State, etc.), what should a student do?

Successful completion for the TGSAS program requires attending the entire program. Exceptions for late arrival or attending an approved agricultural event will be considered on an individual basis. For more information call 731-881-7211 or email jspeight@utm.edu.

Will the student's home schools be notified?

Yes. By the first week in May, lists of all students accepted up until that point will be mailed to the Tennessee Department of Education. By the end of September, lists of students who attended TGSAS will be mailed to individual high schools upon request of the respective counselors.

Are there opportunities for visitation by interested teachers and/or counselors?

Yes, but we do not encourage drop-ins. Call the Governor's School ahead of time to make arrangements.

If test scores are not available for sophomores, what should be used?

Indicate type of test taken and anticipated date of receipt. Include any available standardized test scores on the Test Data Form.

Are students permitted to bring electronic devices, such as cellular phones?

Cell phones may be brought, but are not permitted in classes or other program presentations.

Laser pointers are strictly forbidden.

Other than grades, test scores, etc., what will raters look at in this application?

The recommendations from teachers are very important. Two applications might be given the same rating, but what the teachers have said may result in a higher score. The student's essays are critical, especially from the standpoint of grammar, spelling and content as a whole. Extracurricular and service activities are also important.

Is the application confidential?

Yes. In accordance with state and federal law, no personally identifiable information can be released to unauthorized individuals.

V: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE APPLICANT

The complete application packet should include the materials listed on the last page, "Submitting the Complete Application" of the application. Incomplete applications or those sent directly from students will not be considered. Please carefully review **all** of the information in the entire packet. TGSAS requires an intense personal commitment from each participant. Students unable or unwilling to make that commitment should not be nominated. **ALL MATERIALS SUBMITTED BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND RESPECTIVE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL.**

VI: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**THE SCHOOL FOR THE AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES****THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT MARTIN**

June 4 – July 1, 2016

The goals of this school are to provide educational programs in the agricultural sciences for gifted and talented high school youth. Programs are designed to challenge participants to use their talent and intellect in studying and researching the scientific nature of the various disciplines of agriculture and the natural resources while promoting an atmosphere of multicultural diversity, dialogue, learning, and respect.

The objectives of the curriculum include:

To provide an academically talented group of students in Tennessee with opportunities to expand their knowledge of food, agriculture, and the sustainable use of renewable natural resources as well as their understanding of the technologies involved in manners not normally found in the traditional high school environment.

To provide participants with an opportunity to become exposed to scientific concepts, land stewardship concepts, and facilities, as well as professional scientists from multiple universities and states.

To realize that the agricultural sciences provide a wide array of interesting and rewarding career opportunities that require training in leadership, communication, problem solving, interpersonal skills, and research methodology and application.

Formal courses, supervised individual and group projects, and experimental and experiential learning techniques will be part of the program. Faculty will include university instructors, researchers, outstanding high school teachers, and prominent industry and agency personnel offering selected courses, seminars, and specialized projects. Students may earn up to six hours of college credit. Field trips to leading academic and industry research and production facilities will be included.

VII: SPECIFIC PREREQUISITES**Prerequisites:**

Students applying for the Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences must possess an interest in agriculture and understand its importance to the culture and economy of Tennessee. Rising juniors AND seniors may apply (currently sophomores and juniors in high school). ACT and other standardized test scores are recommended in order to provide evidence of the student's likeliness to succeed at the university level. The students invited to attend will receive instructions on completing the UT Martin application process after accepting invitations. University admission requirements include an official high school transcript (with a school seal and school official signature, received by TGSAS in a sealed envelope), parental and high school permission to attend and a minimal weighted 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale.

VIII: QUESTIONS REQUIRING A SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER

1. Explain in an essay of not more than 200 words why you wish to participate in the Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences and how your background or experience qualifies you for the school.
2. Describe in an essay of 400-500 words what you consider the most important issue(s) facing agriculture at this time.
3. Provide a resume of not more than two pages of your achievements, work experience, community service, leadership and citizenship activities.
4. Please list any activities (i.e. camps, retreats, trips, etc.) that required you to be away from your home and family for more than three days.

NOTE: Documents should be typed and each question (1 - 4) must be answered completely.

IX: CONTACT INFORMATION

Please mail applications to this address.

**The Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences
The University of Tennessee at Martin
Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources
253 Brehm Hall
Martin, TN 38238**

Please Fax or Email scanned applications to the appropriate address below.

Fax: 731-881-7948

Email: sspeight@utm.edu

Phone: 731-881-7211

Website: <http://www.utm.edu/departments/tgsas>

X: APPLICATION FORMS**For Additional Application Forms**

- A. You may make your own copies
- B. You may download application(s) from the TGSAS Website: <http://www.utm.edu/departments/tgsas>

The application forms to be completed begin on page 1 (the following page). There are 9 pages of the application form including two Confidential Teacher Reference Forms. The School Counselor should keep one copy of the entire application (including question responses) on file, and the applicant may keep a copy of the application with the exception of confidential forms. **DEADLINE: Completed application materials must be submitted electronically or mailed and postmarked no later than **December 1, 2015**.**

**ALL MATERIALS SUBMITTED BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOLS SPONSORED
BY THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOLS OF TENNESSEE
PERSONAL DATA FORM

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Name: _____
Last
First
Middle
Preferred

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ **Home County:** _____

Applicant Cell Phone: (_____) _____ **Applicant E-Mail:** _____

Date of Birth: _____ **Age:** _____
Month
Day
Year

Current Grade: 10th 11th **Gender:** Male Female **Hometown Newspaper:** _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN INFORMATION:

Parent or Guardian Name: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

Mailing Address (if different from applicant): _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Work Phone: (_____) _____ **Cell Phone:** (_____) _____

E-mail Address: _____

SCHOOL INFORMATION:

School Name: _____

School Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

School Phone: (_____) _____ **School County:** _____

Counselor Name: _____

Counselor Phone: (_____) _____ **Counselor E-Mail:** _____

List all physical disabilities (e.g., visual, auditory, respiratory). Circle those which might in any way limit your capacity. This will not affect your selection. This information is needed to enable us to provide appropriate facilities/services.

Please check the one which best describes your racial/ethnic background?

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> African-American/Black | <input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian/American/White | <input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rican, Cuban, other Hispanic origin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian, Alaskan Native | <input type="checkbox"/> Mexican-American/Chicano | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian-American, Pacific Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiracial | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to respond |

<p>THE GOVERNOR’S SCHOOLS OF TENNESSEE</p> <p>CERTIFICATION OF APPLICATION</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY STUDENT APPLYING TO MULTIPLE SCHOOLS <u>MUST</u> RANK THE SCHOOLS IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE, ON THE TOP RIGHT CORNER OF THIS FORM 1= MOST PREFERRED, ETC.</p> <p>The order of preference must match on each application submitted.</p>	INDICATE PREFERENCE	
		Agricultural Sciences
		Computational Physics
		Emerging Technologies
		Engineering
		Humanities
		Business and IT Leadership
		International Studies
		Prospective Teachers
		Sciences
		Scientific Exploration of TN Heritage
		Scientific Models and Data Analysis

I have not previously attended a Tennessee Governor’s School, and I affirm, agree and/or understand that all statements on this form are true and accurate; any misrepresentation or omission of material facts may result in my being disqualified or my being terminated should I already be enrolled in a Tennessee Governor’s School.

By making this application, I and my parent/guardian agree to the release of any necessary school records to the Governor’s Schools and the respective university for the purpose of determining my eligibility. I/we understand and agree that such school records will be kept confidential and used only for determining admissibility to the Governor’s Schools and the respective university. **STUDENTS WHO DO NOT AGREE TO THE RELEASE OF SUCH SCHOOL RECORDS FOR DETERMINING ADMISSIBILITY WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR THE GOVERNOR’S SCHOOLS.**

I certify that to the best of my knowledge all of the information provided in this application is correct. I acknowledge that information about me may be used for publicity purposes if I am selected to attend a Governor’s School.

Applicant’s Printed Name

Applicant’s Signature

Date

I have carefully reviewed the information on this application and give my permission for my son/daughter to proceed with application procedures. I acknowledge that the Governor’s Schools may offer university course credit and grades which will require university enrollment. I authorize the high school and its employees to release any information necessary for this application.

Parent’s or Guardian’s Printed Name

Parent’s or Guardian’s Signature

Date

I nominate the applicant listed above for the Tennessee Governor’s School and certify that the applicant meets the criteria set by the Tennessee Governor’s Schools and the prerequisites of the Governor’s School to which application is made. I recommend this student for the Governor’s School(s) to which application is made, for admission to the hosting university during Summer Session (2014) and for enrollment in university classes that may or may not earn university credit and grades.

Principal’s or School Counselor’s Printed Name

Date

Principal’s or School Counselor’s Signature

Date

THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOLS OF TENNESSEE

TEST DATA FORM

While information pertaining to some of the following items may not be available for all students, please include all available information. Record requested scores on this sheet only if they do not appear on the official transcript. Use the latest scores available. If your school does not rank, write "do not rank" or "none."

Student's Name _____ Student is currently: Sophomore Junior
 Class Size _____ Class Rank _____ GPA _____ Weighted GPA _____ Please select scale: 4.0 5.0

Does this student meet the GPA and other prerequisites set forth by the school in the application packet? Yes No If you selected no, do not submit an application for this student.

I. ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

TCAP Writing Assessment Score _____ Grade Administered _____

OTHER ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

Full Name of Test _____ Grade Administered _____

Percentile Rank (Verbal) _____ Stanine Score (Verbal) _____

Percentile Rank (Math) _____ Stanine Score (Math) _____

II. APTITUDE TESTS

TEST	YEAR TAKEN	SCORE	PERCENTILE*
PLAN Composite	_____	_____	_____
ACT Composite	_____	_____	_____
PSAT Critical Reading	_____	_____	_____
PSAT Math	_____	_____	_____
PSAT Writing	_____	_____	_____
SAT Verbal SAT	_____	_____	_____
Math SAT	_____	_____	_____
Writing	_____	_____	_____
SAT II - specify test(s)	_____	_____	_____

III. INTELLIGENCE TESTS OR TESTS OF COGNITIVE ABILITY

Full Name of Test _____ Grade Administered _____

Total Score _____ Percentile Rank _____

Quantitative Score _____ Percentile Rank _____

Verbal Score _____ Percentile Rank _____

IV..ANY OTHER RELEVANT TEST SCORES _____

I certify that to the best of my knowledge the above results are accurately reported.

Principal's or School Counselor's Printed Name _____

Position/Title _____

Principal's or School Counselor's Signature _____

Date _____

*Required

THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOLS OF TENNESSEE

**CONFIDENTIAL SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S
RECOMMENDATION FORM**

Applicant's Name _____
Last First Middle

Name of School _____

TO THE COUNSELOR: The above named student is applying for selection to a Tennessee Governor's School. A complete application requires the following information and evaluation from you. Please submit the entire application consisting of a Personal Data Form, Certification of Application Form, Test Data Form, this Confidential School Counselor's Recommendation Form, two (2) Confidential Teacher's Reference Forms, applicant's responses to school-specific questions requiring separate sheets of paper (see pages K-R), and a transcript to the appropriate address listed on page S. **This form is for the confidential use by Governor's School officials and will not be released.**

- 1. Have you reviewed the student's academic records? Yes No
- 2. Does the student meet the prerequisites of the Governor's School(s) to which application(s) is made?
Yes No
- 3. In your opinion, how academically qualified is the student for the Governor's School experience?
Highly Qualified Qualified Marginally Qualified Not Qualified
- 4. Do you recommend this student for the Governor's School(s) to which application is made? Yes No
- 5. Number of days this applicant has been absent: Previous School Year _____ Current School Year _____
- 6. Has this applicant received any disciplinary referrals? Previous School Year _____ Current School Year _____
(If yes, please explain or attach disciplinary record.)
- 7. Please provide narrative comments about this student to help us with our evaluation. Narrative comments are extremely helpful to the selection committees.

IF THE ABOVE REFERENCED STUDENT DOES NOT MEET THE PREREQUISITES SET FORTH IN THE APPLICATION PACKET, IS NOT ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED AND/OR YOU WOULD NOT RECOMMEND THIS STUDENT FOR A GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL, THEN THE STUDENT IS INELIGIBLE AND AN APPLICATION SHOULD NOT BE SUBMITTED.

Your Signature

Your Printed Name

Date

() _____ ext. _____
Counselor Telephone Number

THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOLS OF TENNESSEE
CONFIDENTIAL TEACHER'S REFERENCE FORM

Applicant's Name _____
Last First Middle

Name of School _____

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE TEACHER: The above referenced student is applying to attend one of the Tennessee Governor's Schools, an intensive residency program for mature, gifted, and talented students. This applicant has designated you as one of his or her teachers of reference. Please complete this confidential reference form and **return it to the applicant's School Counselor. Please do not return to the student. This form is for the confidential use by Governor's School officials and will not be released.**

This reference form is a critically important part of the student's application and will have a significant role in the selection process. Therefore, it is extremely important that you provide us with a candid, frank, and complete assessment of this student's maturity, attitude, work commitment, and creativity. This form will not become a part of the student's regular school records; it will be used solely by officials of the Governor's School to aid them in the selection process. The contents of this form will not be disclosed to the applicant or his/her parents/guardians. The Governor's School officials greatly appreciate your help in this selection process.

1. How long have you known and worked with this applicant? _____

2. In what situations have you served as this applicant's teacher? _____

3. Please evaluate this applicant in the areas below comparing him or her with similar outstanding students you have had in the past:

Attitude Toward Work

- Outstanding
- Above Average
- Average
- Can be indifferent
- Lacks commitment

Initiative

- Self-directed/motivated
- Usually independent
- Completes work assigned
- Needs some prodding
- Very hesitant

Maturity

- Extremely mature
- Above average
- Average teenager
- Somewhat mature
- Very immature

Ability to Work

- Learns very quickly
- Learns readily
- Average
- Must work hard to learn
- Does not learn easily

Quality of Work

- Excellent
- Very good
- Average
- Below average
- Very Poor

Quantity of Work

- Unusually high output
- Above average
- Average output
- Not a great producer
- Low output, slow

Dependability/Consistency

- Always dependable
- Above average
- Average
- Occasionally unreliable
- Usually unreliable

Relations with Others

- Exceptionally good
- Generally very good
- Average
- Occasional conflicts
- Many conflicts

Judgment

- Exceptionally good
- Above average
- Average for a teenager
- Occasionally poor
- Frequently poor

4. How would you describe the applicant's attendance? Regular Irregular

5. How would you describe the applicant's punctuality? High Average Low

CONFIDENTIAL TEACHER REFERENCE FORM – CONTINUED

6. What is your best judgment about this applicant’s emotional maturity and stability to deal with an intensive residency program in which he/she will meet new people, face new situations, and encounter new challenges during the weeks of the program?

- Will adapt readily to the changes and challenges and will be a successful participant
- Should be able to adapt to the changes and challenges with a minimum of adjustment
- Should succeed but will have some difficulty dealing with the stress
- This applicant may have some difficulty dealing with the stress and may not be successful
- This applicant will have great difficulty dealing with new situations and challenges.

7. This applicant’s outstanding personal qualities are: _____

8. The personal qualities this applicant should strive most to improve are: _____

9. Please indicate your overall judgment about this applicant:

- Very highly recommended. An outstanding student who will do well in the School.
- Highly recommended. A very good student who will be successful in the School.
- Recommend. A good student who will participate effectively in the School.
- Recommend with reservations. A good student but he/she may present some problems.
- I do not recommend this student.

10. SUMMARY COMMENTS. We must select a relatively small number of students from a large pool of exceptional applicants. Please tell us something about this student that is not reflected in any of the above ratings that will help us make a decision? What makes this applicant truly exceptional? Summary comments are extremely important to the selection committees, and reference letters are acceptable. If you need more space, you may attach another sheet.

Your Signature and Subject Area

Date

Your Printed Name

() _____ ext. _____
Telephone Number & Extension

Your School (Please also supply address if different than applicant’s current school address.)

Please return this form by _____ to the applicant’s School Counselor, _____, who must mail the complete application packet to the Governor’s School to be post marked no later than the deadline date(s) stated for the school(s) in question. School counselors may set an earlier deadline. Thank you for your help.

THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOLS OF TENNESSEE
CONFIDENTIAL TEACHER'S REFERENCE FORM

Applicant's Name _____
Last First Middle

Name of School _____

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE TEACHER: The above referenced student is applying to attend one of the Tennessee Governor's Schools, an intensive residency program for mature, gifted, and talented students. This applicant has designated you as one of his or her teachers of reference. Please complete this confidential reference form and **return it to the applicant's School Counselor. Please do not return to the student. This form is for the confidential use by Governor's School officials and will not be released.**

This reference form is a critically important part of the student's application and will have a significant role in the selection process. Therefore, it is extremely important that you provide us with a candid, frank, and complete assessment of this student's maturity, attitude, work commitment, and creativity. This form will not become a part of the student's regular school records; it will be used solely by officials of the Governor's School to aid them in the selection process. The contents of this form will not be disclosed to the applicant or his/her parents/guardians. The Governor's School officials greatly appreciate your help in this selection process.

1. How long have you known and worked with this applicant? _____
2. In what situations have you served as this applicant's teacher? _____

3. Please evaluate this applicant in the areas below comparing him or her with similar outstanding students you have had in the past:

Attitude Toward Work

- Outstanding
- Above Average
- Average
- Can be indifferent
- Lacks commitment

Initiative

- Self-directed/motivated
- Usually independent
- Completes work assigned
- Needs some prodding
- Very hesitant

Maturity

- Extremely mature
- Above average
- Average teenager
- Somewhat mature
- Very immature

Ability to Work

- Learns very quickly
- Learns readily
- Average
- Must work hard to learn
- Does not learn easily

Quality of Work

- Excellent
- Very good
- Average
- Below average
- Very Poor

Quantity of Work

- Unusually high output
- Above average
- Average output
- Not a great producer
- Low output, slow

Dependability/Consistency

- Always dependable
- Above average
- Average
- Occasionally unreliable
- Usually unreliable

Relations with Others

- Exceptionally good
- Generally very good
- Average
- Occasional conflicts
- Many conflicts

Judgment

- Exceptionally good
- Above average
- Average for a teenager
- Occasionally poor
- Frequently poor

4. How would you describe the applicant's attendance? Regular Irregular

5. How would you describe the applicant's punctuality? High Average Low

CONFIDENTIAL TEACHER REFERENCE FORM – CONTINUED

6. What is your best judgment about this applicant’s emotional maturity and stability to deal with an intensive residency program in which he/she will meet new people, face new situations, and encounter new challenges during the weeks of the program?

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SUBMITTING THE COMPLETE APPLICATION

IS THIS APPLICATION COMPLETE?

Counselors Checklist.

Please return with application.

Page 1: _____ Personal Data Form

Page 2: _____ Certification of Application

Applicant Signs: _____ Parent/Guardian Signs: _____ Counselor or Principal Signs: _____

Page 3: _____ Test Data Form

Page 4: _____ Confidential Counselor's Recommendation Form
School Counselor or Principal Completes/Signs

Page 5: _____ Confidential Teachers Reference Form 1
Teacher Completes/Signs and returns to Counselor

Page 6: _____ Confidential Teachers Reference Form 2
Teacher Completes/Signs and returns to Counselor

Page 7: _____ Questions Requiring a Separate Piece of Paper (as described on page H)

Essay 1: _____ Essay 2: _____

Resume: _____ Away from home statement: _____

Counselors Signature: _____ Date: _____

(By signing above you are verifying that this application is complete and accurate.)

**The Tennessee Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences
University of Tennessee at Martin
Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources
253 Brehm Hall
Martin, TN 38238**

Director: Dr. Joey Mehlhorn (mehlhorn@utm.edu)

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Suezane Speight (sspeight@utm.edu)

Please contact either of us if you need assistance completing this application.

Telephone: 731-881-7211