

Application



The 2018 Pennsylvania School for Excellence in the Agricultural Sciences, formerly known as the 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 Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

Program Contact Information:

Mailing Address:

PA School for Excellence in
the Ag Sciences
Attention: Jenneth R. Layaou
101 Ag. Administration Bldg.
University Park, PA 16802

Phone: 814-867-0383
E-mail: PSEAS@psu.edu

Deadlines & Dates

Program Dates:
July 8 – August 3, 2018

Application Deadline:
February 15, 2018

Program Decision Date:
March 23, 2018

Notification

Notification of final status of the selection process will be made via email by March 23, 2018.

The Pennsylvania School for Excellence in the Agricultural Sciences (PSEAS) cannot respond to requests in advance notice, individual assessments or appeals.

This application form expires on Feb. 15, 2018, and may not be used for submission after that date.

Contents

Program Contact Information.....	This page
Deadlines and Dates.....	This page
Notification.....	This page
Eligibility.....	This page
Applicant Responsibility.....	This page
Application Procedures.....	Page 2
Personal Data Form.....	Page 3
Science/Ag Teacher Ref. Form.....	Page 4
Guidance Counselor Recom. Form.....	Page 5
Submission Checklist.....	Page 6

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 home-schooled.

•**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 School for Excellence in the Agricultural Sciences, the student must commit to being in residence for the full program, July 8 - August 3, 2018. **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.**

•**GROUND 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. Home-schoolers should contact the PSEAS 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 un-solicited materials. Extraneous letters of recommendation other than the teacher reference and the counselor's recommendation and other unsolicited materials will be removed from applications.

•**UNDERSTANDINGS:** The PA School for Excellence in the Ag Sciences cannot provide individual assessments or grant appeals to the selection process.

Furthermore, the Pennsylvania School for Excellence in the Agricultural Sciences is not responsible for late, lost, and/or incorrectly addressed, incomplete or damaged applications.

Application Form Page 2

Application Procedure

PSEAS Application Required Parts

Part 1. Applicant Completed 2018 PSEAS Personal Data Form

Signed by applicant and parent/guardian. An application missing any part may be disqualified for incompleteness. These responses receive emphasis in the selection process.

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 1 (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 One."
- Prompt: **Introduce yourself to the selection committee.** Discuss why you wish to participate in the Pennsylvania School for Excellence in the Agricultural Sciences and what you hope to gain from participating in this program. Be as specific as possible about you and why you are willing to spend four weeks of your summer to come to PSEAS, in addition, 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 PSEAS.

Part 4. Applicant completed Narrative Statement 2 (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 "Narrative Two."
- Prompt: Select **ONE** country and **ONE** key factor affecting food security from our website (<http://agsci.psu.edu/school-for-excellence/courses/pennsylvania-youth-institute-information>)

Write your second narrative, considering the below points:

1. Describe a typical subsistence farm family or poor urban family in your chosen country. (family size, diet, education, access to health care, farm size, crops grown, agricultural practices or employment and wage, where they typically purchase food or have access to private or community gardens, barriers to improving agricultural productivity, employment and earning a living wage, gaining access to food markets and adequate nutrition.)
2. How the factor you selected may affect agricultural productivity, house income or food availability and quality in your chosen country.

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. (Home-schoolers, give Counselor form to the Home-school Evaluator.)

Part 7. Checklist Submission

Counselor should use checklist on page 6 for submission.

The counselor/evaluator sends the application to the **Office of the Pennsylvania School for Excellence in 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 15, 2018.

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 "PSEAS Application Received" for the acknowledgment of the receipt of the PSEAS application. If this has not been received three weeks after posting the application, contact the Information Line, (814) 867-0383 or e-mail PSEAS@psu.edu.

Applicant Personal Data Form, Page 3
Part 1

Applicant Name _____ Gender: Male Female Trans
First Middle Last

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 _____

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 Contact Information:

Parent/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 and acknowledge that information about my selection to the Pennsylvania School for Excellence in 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 PSEAS 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 and authorize my child's school and its employees to release any information necessary for this application.
- I acknowledge that it is my child's responsibilities to ensure that the application is submitted in complete form, postmarked by the appropriate date, and mailed to the PSEAS Program Office at the Pennsylvania State University, University Park campus.
- I understand that the application becomes the property of the Pennsylvania School for Excellence in the Agricultural Sciences (PSEAS) and cannot be returned. I am aware that the PSEAS cannot respond to requests for individual assessments or appeals.

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

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 School for Excellence in 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 _____

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 School for Excellence in 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 program participation, plagiarism or falsification of information.

COUNSELOR'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Submission Checklist: Page 6

Application Checklist (please do not staple together)

- 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 School for Excellence in the Agricultural Sciences
c/o Jenneth R. Layaou, Director
101 Agricultural Administration Building
University Park, PA 16802

POSTMARK DEADLINE: February 15, 2018. Applications postmarked after February 15, 2018, will be DISQUALIFIED. Faxed or emailed transmissions will not be accepted.

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

