



2019 Application Deadline: February 22, 2019



The 2019 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 affiliated with the National Conference of Governor's School and The World Food Prize Foundation. This program is free to participants and is sponsored by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

### 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 7 – August 2, 2019

Application Deadline:  
February 22, 2019

Program Decision Date:  
March 22, 2019

### Notification

Notification of final status of the selection process will be made via email by March 22, 2019.

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

This application form expires on Feb. 22, 2019 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 home-schooled in Pennsylvania.

•**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 7 - August 2, 2019. **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.

## Page 2: Instructions and Required Parts of the Application

PSEAS Application Required Parts: All parts should be given to your counselor in a timely fashion for submission.

### Part 1. Applicant Completed 2019 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 (Include with Application)

Format: Resume format, 3 pages 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 (Include with 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 (Include with Application)

- Format: Essay format, 2-5 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 (Page 4)

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 (Page 5)

Fill out the information lines on the top of the form and give the full form, resume, page 3, and two narratives 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,**

Information will be accepted after the deadline only by approval of the Director.



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:  
(4 = exceptional; 3 = above average; 2 = average; 1 = below average; 0 = 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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 (if available)

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: Critical Reading \_\_\_\_\_ Writing \_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

ACT: English \_\_\_\_\_ Mathematics \_\_\_\_\_ Reading \_\_\_\_\_ Science \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

SATs: Reading \_\_\_\_\_ Writing \_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Please check the courses completed or will be taken in senior year:

- 4 Units of English-includes 1Lit/1 Comp \_\_\_# Pending Senior Year
- 3 Units of Social Studies/Art/Humanities \_\_\_# Pending Senior Year
- 3 Units of Math in Algebra and Geometry \_\_\_# Pending Senior Year
- 2 Units of World Language \_\_\_\_\_# Pending Senior Year

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 based on grade level ineligibility, residency ineligibility, and previous program participation, plagiarism or falsification of information.*

COUNSELOR'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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 and Reference
- Guidance Counselor Form and Reference
- Transcript

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

Any questions about this application can be directed to Jenneth R. Layaou, [pseas@psu.edu](mailto:pseas@psu.edu).

Thank you for your support.



*Let's Build Your Future  
Together!*