

2008 National Youth Science Camp[®]

Operated by the National Youth Science Foundation[®]

General Information and Instructions

- National Youth Science Camp** The National Youth Science Camp (NYSC) is a residential science education program that honors and challenges the two most promising high school science students from each state. Scientists from across the nation who work on some of the most provocative topics in science today present lectures and hands-on science seminars and linger to interact informally with student delegates. Delegates are challenged to explore new areas in the biological and physical sciences, art, and music with resident staff members. They also may present seminars covering their own areas of interest and research. The delegates visit Washington D.C. to take advantage of some of the nation's premier scientific, governmental, and cultural facilities. The experience includes three overnight expeditions into the Monongahela National Forest featuring backpacking, rock-climbing, caving, mountain biking, or kayaking opportunities. Delegates are required to participate in the camp program for its entirety as the fast-paced activities in the remote location make coming and going from the NYSC very difficult.
- Location of the Camp** The NYSC will be held at a facility located in the Monongahela National Forest near Bartow in the eastern mountains of West Virginia.
- Dates of the Camp** Delegates **MUST** be able to attend the entire NYSC program. Delegates arrive in Charleston, West Virginia, on **Sunday, June 29, 2008**, and depart on **Saturday, July 26, 2008**.
- Cost** The National Youth Science Foundation funds the National Youth Science Camp and it is offered at **NO COST** to its participants so that selected delegates may attend regardless of their financial status. All educational and recreational programming, as well as meals, lodging, and round-trip air passage on scheduled airlines are provided free of charge to the delegates.
- Eligible Applicants**
- Must be candidates for high school graduation between July 2007 and June 2008;
 - Should intend to pursue a profession oriented toward science, mathematics, engineering, or medicine;
 - Must demonstrate superior academic proficiency, including recognition in mathematics and/or the sciences;
 - Must demonstrate an application of leadership abilities and social maturity through involvement in both school and community activities;
 - Must demonstrate skills and achievements outside the realm of science and outside the realm of academic pursuits; and
 - Must demonstrate a curiosity and an eagerness to explore many and varied topics.
- Application Criteria** A complete application consists of an original and one copy of the following:
1. Delegate Application Cover Sheet (please print or type),
 2. A letter detailing your qualifications and reasons for applying (must be typed),
 3. A resume detailing your academic achievements and extra-curricular activities,
 4. A recent academic transcript (including standardized test scores when possible), and
 5. A letter of support from a teacher or research mentor.
- Submission Instructions**
1. Staple items 1 - 5, described above, together with one staple in the upper left corner. Do not otherwise bind your application nor place it in a folder.
 2. Mail your complete application directly to your state selection coordinator using United States Postal Service first class mail so that it is received no later than February 18, 2008. The mailing address for your state's selection coordinator can be found online at www.nysc.org/2008.
- Questions** For answers to questions about the application and delegate selection process, please contact your state's selection coordinator. For answers to questions about the NYSC, please contact the camp's director, Andrew N. Blackwood, Ed.D., at Andrew.Blackwood@nysf.com.

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Delegate Application Cover Sheet

Print or Type

Name:	_____		
	<small>Last</small>	<small>First</small>	<small>Middle</small>
Gender:	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female		
Street Address:	_____		
City, State Zip:	_____		
Home Telephone:	_____		
E-mail Address:	_____		
Parents' or Legal Guardians' Full Names:	_____		

School Name:	_____		
School Address:	_____		
City, State Zip:	_____		
School Telephone:	_____		

Application Check List:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Delegate Application Cover Sheet – this page (please print or type),○ A letter detailing your qualifications and reasons for applying (must be typed),○ A resume detailing your academic achievements and extra-curricular activities,○ A recent academic transcript (including standardized test scores when possible), and○ A letter of support from a teacher or research mentor.
Applicant Certification:	I certify by signature below, that I will receive a high school diploma between July 2007 and June 2008, and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all of the information on and attached to this application is true, correct, complete and made in good faith. If selected, I expect to be available to participate during the entire period of the National Youth Science Camp from June 29 through July 26, 2008.
Applicant's Signature:	_____
Date Signed:	_____

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is the National Youth Science Camp?

The National Youth Science Camp (NYSC) is one of the nation's premier programs in secondary science education. Since its inception in 1963 as part of West Virginia's Centennial Celebration, the nearly month-long summer program has offered educational forums and recreational activities that encourage the development of thoughtful scientific leadership.

How are the delegates selected?

Two students are chosen to represent each state as delegates to the National Youth Science Camp. Delegates are graduating high school seniors who have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement, leadership in school and community activities, and a genuine interest in the sciences. The governor of each state appoints a selection coordinator who initiates a competitive process to choose two delegates and four alternates.

Who are the state selection coordinators?

Each state's governor appoints a state selection coordinator who organizes the application and selection process. Contact information is available on the NYSC website at www.nysc.org/2008.

How much does it cost to attend?

Delegates attend the National Youth Science Camp at no expense, round-trip transportation included. This has been true throughout the history of the camp so that delegates can attend regardless of their financial status.

What are the goals of the NYSC?

The National Youth Science Camp honors, rewards, and encourages excellence in science. It creates an environment where young scientists of diverse backgrounds and interests may reap maximum benefits from interaction with one another and with visiting scientists. It strives to broaden horizons, to inspire confidence and creativity, and to encourage a sense of thoughtful scientific leadership among future scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and health care professionals.

How does the NYSC accomplish its goals?

The National Youth Science Camp offers hands-on small-group learning experiences, a provocative lecture series, and a challenging outdoor program. The hands-on experiences and lectures expose delegates to current work across the spectrum of scientific disciplines. Visiting scientists are invited based on their reputation as leaders in their fields and on their ability to share up-to-date research with the delegates. The atmosphere at the NYSC is engaging and supportive. Guests, staff, and delegates have time to relax and discuss ideas over meals or while on the hiking trail. Recent guest speakers at the NYSC include Dr. Jay Lockman, former director of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory; Dr. Francis Collins, former director of the National Human Genome Project; Dr. Ken Ono of the University of Wisconsin-Madison; Dr. "Zoon" Nguyen of American Radiation Oncology; General Wesley Clark, former Supreme Allied Commander Europe; Dr. Holmes Morton, winner of the Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism and the McArthur Foundation 'Genius' award; and Dr. Margaret Lowman of the Selby Botanical Gardens.

What happens on a typical program day at the NYSC?

A typical day begins with a morning lecture from a guest scientist. After this, some groups of students leave to go on outdoor trips while the rest break up into small groups for their hands-on, small group directed studies facilitated by guest scientists or NYSC staff members. The afternoon is reserved for free-time activities such as optional seminars, athletic and recreational activities, art, and music. While free time seminar topics can be scientific, they often depart from science and encompass the personal interests of delegates, staff, and guests. Activities challenge delegates to approach problems with creativity or to try something new. Activities range from fishing to philosophy, ballroom dancing to biological technologies. The atmosphere is purposefully informal. An evening science lecture follows dinner.

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Where is it held?

The National Youth Science Camp is held at a semi-rustic camp near Bartow in the eastern mountains of West Virginia's Potomac Highlands, close to the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank and within the unique wilderness areas of the Monongahela National Forest. Because of the camp's location, delegates have the opportunity to visit the National Radio Astronomy Observatory's new Green Bank Telescope as well as such West Virginia landmarks as the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area, the Dolly Sods Wilderness Area, and several other destinations.

What is the NYSC Outdoor program?

To reinforce and encourage well-rounded individual development, a fun and challenging outdoor program supplements the NYSC's academic program. On several occasions during camp, all delegates go on overnight outdoor trips, which may include backpacking, rock climbing, caving, kayaking, mountain biking, or science field experiences. Many of these activities are also offered on "day trips", making it possible for most delegates to experience several different offerings.

Why do delegates travel to Washington DC?

Because the National Youth Science Camp is only five hours from the nation's capital, delegates are able to take advantage of the area's extensive scientific and cultural offerings during a three-day trip. Each year, United States Senator Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia honors the delegates with a luncheon to which he invites his Senate colleagues. Recent keynote speakers include Dr. Michael Griffin, administrator of NASA; Cmdr. John Grunsfeld, Chief Scientist for NASA; Bill Richardson, Secretary of the Energy; General Wesley Clark; and Mr. Wesley Bush, Chief Financial Officer of the Northrop Grumman Corporation. Delegates also may spend some time in the capital's many museums, historic buildings, and monuments during the trip.

Who should apply to the NYSC?

Eligible applicants:

- Must be candidates for high school graduation between July 2007 and June 2008;
- Should intend to pursue a profession oriented toward science, mathematics, engineering, or medicine;
- Must demonstrate superior academic proficiency, including recognition in mathematics and/or the sciences;
- Must demonstrate an application of leadership abilities and social maturity through involvement in both school and community activities;
- Must demonstrate skills and achievements outside the realm of science and outside the realm of academic pursuits; and
- Must demonstrate a curiosity and an eagerness to explore many and varied topics.

How can I find out more about the NYSC?

For more information and some color images of the National Youth Science Camp, see the NYSC web page at www.nysc.org, or contact the camp's director, Andrew N. Blackwood, Ed.D., at Andrew.Blackwood@nysf.com.

How is the NYSC funded?

The NYSC is funded through contributions to the National Youth Science Foundation, Inc., a 501(c) (3) a non-profit foundation registered with the Internal Revenue Service. While a generous portion of the funding still comes from the State of West Virginia, support increases each year from the private and corporate sectors. A list of current contributors to the National Youth Science Foundation is available online at <http://www.nysf.com/contributors.html>.