

2012 National Youth Science Camp[®]

Operated by the National Youth Science Foundation[®]

General Information and Instructions for State Selection Coordinators

National Youth Science Camp	The National Youth Science Camp (NYSC) is a residential science education program that honors and challenges two graduating high school science students from each state. Scientists from across the nation 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. Opportunities are provided for delegates to present seminars covering their own areas of interest and research. A visit to Washington D.C. permits delegates to visit some of the nation's premier scientific, governmental, and cultural facilities. The NYSC experience includes overnight excursions into the Monongahela National Forest featuring backpacking, rock-climbing, caving, mountain biking, and kayaking opportunities. Delegates are required to participate in the camp program for its entirety as the fast-paced activities and remote location make travel to and from the NYSC very difficult. More information is available online at www.nysc.org .	
Location of the NYSC	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 NYSC	Delegates MUST be able to attend the entire NYSC program. Delegates arrive in Charleston, West Virginia, on Thursday, June 27, 2012 , and depart on Sunday, July 21, 2012 .	
Cost	The National Youth Science Camp 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be candidates for high school graduation between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012;• 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 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.	
Instructions	To insure uniformity in the selection process, the National Youth Science Foundation requests that each state use the enclosed application materials to select delegates to the National Youth Science Camp. A committee of at least three persons should score the applications using the enclosed evaluation rubric. Exceptions are considered on an individual basis.	
Deadlines	At your convenience	Announce to the public the opening of the NYSC selection competition by using the attached sample press release. Notify high school science teachers and counselors of the availability of application materials at www.nysc.org .
Please complete the following tasks by these deadlines.	February 17	Deadline for submission of applications to state selection coordinator.
	March 9	Return the completed Delegate Information Form to the NYSF office.
Questions	For answers to questions about the National Youth Science Foundation or the National Youth Science Camp, please contact the NYSC's director, Desiree Henriksen by telephone at (304) 205-9724 or by E-mail at desiree.henriksen@nysf.com .	

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Delegate Selection Guidelines

To insure uniformity in the selection process, the National Youth Science Foundation requests that each state use the enclosed application materials and rubric to select delegates to the National Youth Science Camp (NYSC). Exceptions to this requirement are considered on an individual basis. It is essential that all selected delegates show documented potential for scientific leadership. Selection to participate in the NYSC is an honor that should be reserved for our nation's most outstanding young science-oriented leaders.

Most applicants will possess superior grades and test scores; thus, selections are perhaps best based upon the leadership abilities and outside interests of those who are science-oriented academic achievers. The National Youth Science Camp's program is unique, with an emphasis on well-rounded development. The NYSC program honors and encourages versatile, intelligent, highly motivated students - students who will one day provide the thoughtful scientific leadership necessary in our technological age.

A committee of at least three members (who should not know any of the students) should rank the applications using the included rubric. The applicants with the highest two cumulative scores will be selected to attend the NYSC. In the event of a tie, the selection committee members should contact each candidate and complete an oral interview. A total of up to 10 points for the interview will be added to the cumulative points. The applicants with the next four highest cumulative scores will be notified that they are alternates to represent their state at the National Youth Science Camp.

After the Delegates Are Selected

Please notify each delegate and alternate of the results of the selection process promptly. Because the selection is done at the state level, your office should announce the selection of delegates to the appropriate local media outlets. An official announcement of the selections at a governor's press conference is common. Such an announcement heightens the honor of the selection and emphasizes the delegates' roles as state representatives.

It is especially important that you confirm your delegates' willingness to participate in the National Youth Science Camp program. Because the students are so highly versatile and talented, you may find that they have already decided to participate in another summer program, or the cost of their college education may necessitate their working throughout the summer. After you have confirmed the students' willingness to participate, please fill out the enclosed Delegate Information Form (including contact information for both delegates and alternates) and return it to the NYSC office as soon as possible. The NYSC office should receive this information **no later than March 9, 2012**. The National Youth Science Foundation will then contact your delegates by mail and provide them with information about attending the NYSC, including all of the necessary forms.

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE NEWS RELEASE

(Insert Date)

**HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS SOUGHT FOR
NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE CAMP[®] HONORS**

(City name) – Governor (*Governor’s name*) appointed (*selection coordinator*) from (*agency/organization*) to serve as (*state’s*) selection coordinator for the 2012 National Youth Science Camp (NYSC). Two high school seniors will receive a full scholarship to exchange ideas with scientists and other professionals from the academic and corporate worlds. The nearly month-long experience includes lectures and hands-on research projects presented by scientists from across the nation; overnight camping trips into the Monogahela National Forest; and a visit to Washington D.C. The selected delegates must not only demonstrate academic achievement in science, but also show potential for thoughtful scientific leadership.

The NYSC experience is offered at no cost to its participants, so that selected delegates may attend regardless of their financial status. Contributions to the National Youth Science Foundation[®] allow delegates to participate in this “once in a lifetime” experience. Educational and recreational programming, as well as meals, lodging, and round-trip air passage on scheduled airlines are provided free of charge.

Delegates arrive in Charleston, West Virginia, on Thursday, June 27, and depart on Sunday, July 21, 2012. The NYSC is held near Bartow in the eastern mountains of West Virginia, within the Monongahela National Forest. Application forms are available on the NYSC website at www.nysc.org and must be submitted directly to (*state’s*) selection coordinator at the following address. Applications must be received by Friday, February 17, 2012.

(selection coordinator)
(selection coordinator’s address)

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

(Selection coordinator) at *(coordinator’s telephone)* or *(coordinator’s E-mail address)*.

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Application Evaluation Rubric

Applicant: _____ **Rater Initials:** _____ **Total Score:** _____

A complete applications consists of 5 components:

1. A delegate application cover sheet,
2. An application letter,
3. A resume,
4. A recent academic transcript (including standardized test scores when possible), and
5. A letter of support from a teacher or research mentor.

Instructions: Read the complete application and assign scores to each of the last 4 components listed above. The applicant's total score is the sum of the subcomponent scores. Please record the total score above.

Guidelines: As you read the complete application, please remember these guiding questions.

- Does the applicant's "voice" come through? Does it give a good "picture" of the applicant, illustrating his or her uniqueness and personality?
- Does the complete application provide demonstration of a well-rounded base of leadership experience, skills, strengths, knowledge of science content?
- Is there evidence of the applicant's ability to think in complex ways, using higher order thinking skills? Are the applicant's responses an appropriate illustration of his/her thought processes?
- Does the applicant have the ability to articulate, clearly and concisely, to present him or herself in a positive manner with a neat, complete application, and with an appropriate level of sophistication?
- Is there any indication presented as to how the experience at the National Youth Science Camp will help them?
- Does the applicant express any passion in what he or she cares about or what is important in his/her life?

APPLICANT'S LETTER (40 points)

Points Awarded:

Point Value	Statement of qualifications.	How you will benefit from the NYSC experience.	Thoughts on the social impact of science.
40	Discusses personal and academic qualification. Supports statements with examples of personal experiences. Tells what the achievements mean for his or her development as a contributing human being. Gives credit to others for helping to achieve goals. States qualifications in terms of goal achievement.	Explains benefits in perspective of the total person. Demonstrates understanding that benefits may well extend in adult life. Conveys understanding that the benefits will accrue to others than just him or her. Gives examples to support the ideas of how the experience may influence decisions or personal growth.	Shows understanding that scientists are responsible for what they do with their skills. Gives examples of positive and/or negative impact of science on society. Discusses major challenges to society and how science may help solve or analyze problems. Discusses importance of a scientifically literate public.
30	Discusses mostly academic qualifications. Sees elected or service experience as representing a category of qualifications.	Looks at the benefits from more than one perspective. Sees value in terms of education and in terms of emotional or social maturation.	Recognizes the importance of science. May give one example of scientists' positive contributions, or negative impact on society. May note a scientist as a role model or inspiration.
20	Makes a statement about the value of both science and non-science coursework.	Discusses the benefits only with reference to his or her individual or personal experience.	Recognizes that science courses help to make a person better able to cope with modern society.
10	Lists courses taken in science and other subjects. No explanation of the value of the coursework.	Sees benefits as a short-term achievement. States enjoyment of travel as a major benefit.	Views science mostly as an academic pursuit. Does not recognize social implications.

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Notes:

RESUME (15 points)

Points Awarded:

Consider documented potential for scientific achievement and leadership. Evaluate the applicant's abilities and interests outside science with emphasis on well-rounded development.

Notes:

TRANSCRIPT (15 points)

Points Awarded:

Consider PSAT, SAT and ACT scores, number in graduating class, grade point average and grading scale. The highest attainable SAT score is 2400 and the highest attainable ACT score is 36. Score high for outstanding grades in difficult classes. Advanced placement and honors level classes should count more than regular physics or chemistry.

Notes:

LETTER OF SUPPORT (30 points)

Points Awarded:

Letters of recommendation should emphasize the applicant's academic achievements, interest in sciences or mathematics, leadership potential, and well-rounded development. Score high for *enthusiastic* endorsement of the applicant. Look for use of superlatives in describing science talents, leadership ability, personality, and perseverance.

Notes:

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Delegate Information Form

Please return this page no later than March 9, 2012, to:
National Youth Science Camp, Post Office Box 3387, Charleston, WV 25333
(304) 205-9724 (voice) / (866) 833-0875 (Fax) / office@nysf.com

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

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

ALTERNATE 1 NAME: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female
_____ Last _____ First _____ Middle _____ Gender _____		
Street Address: _____	City, State Zip: _____	
Home Telephone: _____	E-mail Address: _____	
Parents'/Legal Guardians' _____		
Full Names: _____		

ALTERNATE 2 NAME: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female
_____ Last _____ First _____ Middle _____ Gender _____		
Street Address: _____	City, State Zip: _____	
Home Telephone: _____	E-mail Address: _____	
Parents'/Legal Guardians' _____		
Full Names: _____		

ALTERNATE 3 NAME: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female
_____ Last _____ First _____ Middle _____ Gender _____		
Street Address: _____	City, State Zip: _____	
Home Telephone: _____	E-mail Address: _____	
Parents'/Legal Guardians' _____		
Full Names: _____		

ALTERNATE 4 NAME: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female
_____ Last _____ First _____ Middle _____ Gender _____		
Street Address: _____	City, State Zip: _____	
Home Telephone: _____	E-mail Address: _____	
Parents'/Legal Guardians' _____		
Full Names: _____		

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Sample News Release Announcing Delegate Selection

Governor (*name*) announced today that (*delegate*) and (*delegate*) have been selected as the two most promising young scientific leaders in (*state*)'s 2012 high school graduating class. At the invitation of Governor Earl Ray Tomblin of West Virginia, they will participate as delegates in the 49th year of the National Youth Science Camp held near the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank, West Virginia. (*Alternate1*), (*Alternate2*), (*Alternate3*), and (*Alternate4*) have been selected as alternates.

(Delegate) is (*list the first delegate's activities and honors*).

(Delegate) is (*list the second delegate's activities and honors*).

Established in 1963 as a part of West Virginia's Centennial Celebration, the National Youth Science Camp is an annual summer forum where two delegates representing each state exchange ideas with leading scientists and other professionals from academic and corporate worlds. Lectures and hands-on research projects are presented by scientists from across the United States who work on some of the most provocative topics in science today - topics such as fractal geometry, the human genome project, global climate change, the history of the universe, the fate of our rain forests, and robotics. Delegates to the NYSC are challenged to explore new areas in the biological and physical sciences, art, and music with resident staff members. Delegates also present seminars covering their own areas of research and interest.

The National Youth Science Camp's diverse academic program is complemented by an outdoor recreation program, which leverages the Science Camp's location in the Monongahela National Forest. The Science Camp's outdoor program offers backpacking, caving, rock climbing, mountain biking and kayaking.

(Delegate) and *(Delegate)* will be flown to Charleston, West Virginia, on Wednesday, June 27, and will return home on Saturday, July 21, 2012, after participating in this innovative educational program. The National Youth Science Foundation[®], based in Charleston, West Virginia, covers all expenses, including travel. More information is available online at www.nysf.com and www.nysc.org.