Application for the

2023 Tennessee Governor's School

for

Scientific Exploration of Tennessee Heritage

at

East Tennessee State University

General Information

The Tennessee Governor's Schools offer Tennessee high school students intensive learning experiences virtually or on postsecondary campuses. Each school system is encouraged to share the Governor's School information and applications with strong students who meet the criteria listed below. Nominations for the Tennessee Governor's Schools must be made by high school educators who can speak to the student's potential for success in the program. Each Governor's School convenes an application review committee to select the students invited to attend each school.

Governor's School for Scientific Exploration of Tennessee Heritage
East Tennessee State University
May 28 – June 23, 2023

The Governor's School for the Scientific Exploration of Tennessee Heritage is a four-week program that explores the unique history and culture of Tennessee through integrated concepts of science, preservation, and interpretation, offered in the spectacular setting of the southern Appalachian Mountains. The program offers students the opportunity to complete three credit hours at East Tennessee State University (ETSU), along with seminars in research and writing skills. Students will participate in intensive field experiences such as a *Paleontology Experience* at the world-renowned Gray Fossil Site; a *Pioneer Experience* at ETSU's outdoor research and laboratory facility; and an environmental/ecology experience through Tennessee State Parks. The program will also include visits to historical, cultural, and natural sites such as The Museum of the Cherokee Indian, The Birthplace of Country Music Museum, Roan Mountain State Park, and the International Storytelling Center. Students will enjoy a range of activities related to Tennessee history, such as hiking, Appalachian traditional dance, storytelling, and traditional music.

Prerequisites: Applicants must have a 3.0 GPA or higher, strong preparation and interest in history and science, and good research and writing skills. Some of the fieldwork is physically challenging. If students have any questions or concerns about their ability to complete such activities, they should contact the program GSSETH@etsu.edu or (423) 439-7995. Students invited to attend will receive instructions on completing the ETSU application process after accepting the invitation to attend.

Do you plan to apply to a university or college in Tennessee upon graduation?

□ YES □ NO □ MAYBE

Do you have any plans to apply to East Tennessee State University (ETSU) upon graduation?
□ YES □ NO □ MAYBE

For more information on the program, please visit ETSU Governor's School Scientific Exploration of Tennessee Heritage.

To apply, follow these steps on this website: https://redcap.link/gsseth2023

If you have any questions, please contact GSSETH by email at GSSETH@etsu.edu or phone (423) 439-7995.

Application deadline: December 30, 2022

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the 2023 Governor Schools may be conducted in a completely virtual setting if the pandemic is still impacting Tennessee. For this application to be processed correctly please answer the following question to indicate your level of attendance interest.

Place an "x" in the right-hand column to indicate your potential attendance status.

1. Only if it was a resident program on a host campus	
2. Only if it was a virtual program	
3. I would attend either a resident or virtual program	

Submitting the Application:

Nominating educators should submit completed applications following directions provided by the respective Governor's School(s). Applications submitted directly by students will **not** be accepted. The student may keep a copy of the application, excluding the confidential *Teacher Reference* forms and the confidential *Counselor/Administrator Verification* form; the nominating educator should keep one complete copy of the submitted application package.

ALL STUDENT APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED ONLINE AT
https://redcap.link/gsseth2023

Application Submission Instructions

Ensure applications are complete, arranged in the correct order, and contain all required signatures and documents as outlined below.

1. Nominating educators must submit completed applications to the secure online REDCAP portal: https://redcap.link/gsseth2023. Address questions to GSSETH@etsu.edu or 423-439-7995. Submission must be completed no later than the deadline(s) listed on page two of each application (December 30, 2022).
2. Each Governor's School has specific essay and writing sample questions. All questions must be answered and submitted online or with the application packet.
3. Class rank, class size, numerical test scores, etc., must be verified by the school counselor or school administrator, if available. Please note that while PSAT, SAT, and ACT scores are not mandatory, school administrators are strongly encouraged to include this information if available.
4. Students are to list two teachers (see school-specific list) to complete the confidential *Teacher's Reference* forms. If the teacher is not the faculty member nominating the student, he/she should return the completed reference forms directly to the nominating educator. There is a space available at the bottom of the teacher reference form to put the name of the school personnel to whom the form is to be returned.
5. An official transcript must be uploaded by the nominator in the application packet.
6. A personal photo is not required but is an optional submission document.

Governor's Schools of Tennessee – Application Checklist
Is this application complete?
☐ Applicant Information Form ☐ Completed by applicant/parent/guardian

☐ Certification of Application ☐ Signed by applicant ☐ Signed by parent/guardian ☐ Signed by counselor/ administrator
☐ Student Achievement Information ☐ Completed and signed by counselor/principal
☐ Confidential Teacher Recommendation 1 ☐ Completed and signed by teacher 1
☐ Confidential Teacher Recommendation 2 ☐ Completed and signed by teacher 2
☐ Official Transcript
☐ Specific Questions referred to on page 4 ☐ Student responds to each question

Governor's Schools of Tennessee - Applicant Information Form

Student Information

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name

	, TN		
Mailing Address	City	Zip Code	County

Home Phone	Cell Phone	Email Address

	☐ Female ☐ Male	☐ Native American ☐ Asian ☐ Hispanic or Latino	☐ Black or African American ☐ White ☐ Other
Date of Birth Month/Day/Year	Gender	Race (select all that apply)	

☐ US Citizen ☐ Permanent Resident Alien	☐ Foreign Exchange Student	
Residence Status	Other Residence Status	

Parent/Guardian Information

Parent/Guardian Name	Relationship to Applicant

	, TN	
Mailing Address	City	Zip Code

Work Phone	Cell Phone	Email Address

School Information

School Name	District Name

Counselor Name	Phone	Email

	, TN	
Mailing Address	City	Zip Code

Application Questions

Instructions

1. In an essay of approximately 400 words, explain why you are interested in attending the Governor's School for the Scientific Exploration of Tennessee Heritage, what you hope to gain from the experience, and how you plan to use the experience to shape your academic and career goals. The essay should exhibit the elements of effective writing, including organization, thesis, grammar and style, paragraph structure, and supporting details.

2. Provide a one-page, typed resume of activities, achievements, work experience, and volunteer or community service work.

Please note: be sure to complete all sections of the application, including the ranking of preference for schools to which you apply; Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Students who are accepted typically present outstanding academic records, strong references, good writing ability, and an excellent record of school and community service.

Governor's Schools of Tennessee – Certification of Application

Preference Indication

Any student applying to multiple Governor's Schools **must** rank the schools in order of preference on this form only (1=most preferred, etc.). It is not necessary to rank schools to which the student will not apply.

Ranking	Governor's School
	Agricultural Sciences
	Arts
	Computational Physics
	Emerging Technologies
	Humanities
	Innovation and Entrepreneurship
	Integration of Biological & Statistical Sciences
	International Studies
	Prospective Teachers
	Sciences and Engineering
	Scientific Exploration of Tennessee Heritage

Student Assurances

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 disqualification or termination 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 School and the respective university for the purpose of determining eligibility. I/we understand and agree that such school records will be kept confidential and used only for determining admissibility to the Governor's School. 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 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

Parent/Guardian Assurances

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/Guardian's Printed Name

Parent/Guardian's Signature Date

School Assurances

I nominate the applicant listed above for the Tennessee Governor's School and certify that the applicant meets the criteria and the prerequisites of the Governor's School to which the application is made. I recommend this student for admission to the Governor's School(s), for admission to the hosting university during summer session 2021, and for enrollment in university courses which may or may not allow the student to earn postsecondary credit and grades.

Nominating Educator Printed Name

Nominating Educator Signature Date

Governor's Schools of Tennessee – Student Achievement Information

To the counselor/school administrator: The student listed below is applying for selection to a Tennessee Governor's School. A complete application requires the following information and verification from you. While information pertaining to some of the following items may not be available for all students, please include all available information. Use the latest scores available. If your school does not rank, enter "do not rank" or "none."

Student Information				
Last Name			First Name	Middle Name
☐ 10th ☐ 11th				
Current Grade	Class Size	Class Rank	"HOPE Scholarship GPA"	Cumulative GPA
☐ CTE (specify career cluster)	☐ Science and Math	☐ Humanities	☐ Fine Arts	☐ AP/IB ☐ Other (specify)
Elective Focus				
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.				

Achievement Tests			
Test (list others as appropriate)	*Grade Administered*	*Score*	*Percentile Ranking(s)*
Current State Achievement Test			
Aptitude Tests			
Test	*Grade Administered*	*Score*	*Percentile Ranking(s)*
PLAN Composite			
ACT Composite			
PSAT Critical Reading			
PSAT Writing			
SAT Verbal			
SAT Math			
SAT Writing			
SAT II - specify test(s)			
Any Additional Relevant Test Scores			
Name of Test	*Grade Administered*	*Total Score / Subscores*	*Percentile Ranking(s)*
ACT Math Composite			
ACT Science Composite			

Attendance and Discipline		
	2019-20	*2020-21 (to date)*
Number of days absent		
Number of disciplinary referrals (please explain or attach disciplinary record on separate sheet)		

Counselor/Administrator Verification	
1. Please provide narrative comments about this student to help with our evaluation. Narrative comments are extremely helpful to the selection committees during the evaluation process. Use a separate sheet if necessary.	
2. Have you reviewed the student's academic records?	☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Does the student meet the prerequisites of the Governor's School(s) to which this application is made?	☐ Yes ☐ No
4. In your opinion, how academically qualified is the student for the Governor's School experience?	☐ Highly Qualified ☐ Qualified ☐ Marginally Qualified ☐ Not Qualified

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

Counselor/administrator's Printed Name

Counselor/administrator's Signature Date

Governor's Schools of Tennessee – Teacher Recommendation Guide		
The two confidential *Teacher Recommendation* forms should be completed as follows:		
Governor's School	**Teacher Recommendation 1**	**Teacher Recommendation 2**
Agricultural Sciences	Applicant's choosing	Applicant's choosing
Arts	Arts area teacher	Applicant's choosing
Computational Physics	Science teacher	Math teacher
Emerging Technologies	Science teacher	Math teacher
Engineering	Science teacher	Math teacher
Humanities	English teacher	Applicant's choosing, preferably in humanities discipline
Innovation & Entrepreneurship	Technology or business teacher	Applicant's choosing
Integration of Biological & Statistical Sciences	Science teacher	Math teacher
International Studies	Foreign language teacher, if available	Social studies teacher, if available
Prospective Teachers	English teacher	Applicant's choosing
Sciences & Engineering	Science teacher	Math teacher
Scientific Exploration of Tennessee Heritage	Social studies or science teacher	Humanities or arts teacher

Please list the two teachers from whom the applicant is requesting confidential teacher Recommendations from.		
	Name	**Subject**
Teacher 1		
Teacher 2		

Governor's Schools of Tennessee – Confidential Teacher Recommendation

Student Information		
Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
Educator nominating applicant:	Deadline to return teacher recommendation	

To the teacher: The above-referenced student is applying to attend one of the Tennessee Governor's Schools, an intensive residency or virtual program for mature, gifted, and talented students. This applicant has designated you as one of his or her teachers of reference. This recommendation form is a critically important part of the student's application and will have a significant role in the selection process. Please 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.

Please return this completed form to the applicant's nominator by the date listed above.

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:

Ability to learn	*Attitude toward work*	*Dependability/consistency*
☐ Learns very quickly	☐ Outstanding	☐ Always dependable
☐ Learns readily	☐ Above Average	☐ Above average
☐ Average	☐ Average	☐ Average
☐ Must work hard to learn	☐ Can be indifferent	☐ Occasionally unreliable
☐ Does not learn easily	☐ Lacks commitment	☐ Usually unreliable
Initiative	*Judgment*	*Maturity*
☐ Self-directed/motivated	☐ Exceptionally good	☐ Extremely mature
☐ Usually independent	☐ Above average	☐ Above average
☐ Completes work assigned	☐ Average for a teenager	☐ Average teenager
☐ Needs some prodding	☐ Occasional poor judgments	☐ Somewhat mature
☐ Very hesitant	☐ Frequent poor judgments	☐ Very immature
Relations with others	*Quality of work*	*Quantity of work*
☐ Exceptionally good	☐ Excellent	☐ Unusually high output
☐ Above average	☐ Very good	☐ Above average
☐ Average	☐ Average	☐ Average output
☐ Occasional conflicts	☐ Below average	☐ Not a great producer
☐ Many conflicts	☐ Very poor	☐ Low output, slow

4. How would you describe the applicant's punctuality?

☐ High ☐ Average ☐ Low

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Governor's Schools of Tennessee – Confidential Teacher Recommendation (cont'd)

5. 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? Could this student adapt to a virtual program?

☐ This applicant will adapt readily to the changes and challenges and will be a successful participant.
☐ This applicant should be able to adapt to the changes and challenges with minimal adjustment.
☐ This applicant 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.

6. This applicant's outstanding personal qualities are:

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

8. 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.
☐ Recommended, a good student who will participate effectively in the school.
☐ Recommended with reservations, a good student but he/she may present some problems.
☐ I do not recommend this student.

9. 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 which 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.

Name Signature Date

Governor's Schools of Tennessee – Confidential Teacher Recommendation

Student Information		
Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
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Governor's Schools of Tennessee – Confidential Teacher Recommendation (cont'd)

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☐ Recommended, a good student who will participate effectively in the school.
☐ Recommended with reservations, a good student but he/she may present some problems.
☐ I do not recommend this student.

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Name Signature Date