



**Application for the
2023 Tennessee Governor's School
for the
Sciences and Engineering
at
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville**

General Information

The Tennessee Governor's Schools offers high school students intensive learning experiences 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 the Sciences and Engineering

University of Tennessee Knoxville

June 4 - July 1, 2023

The Governor's School for the Sciences and Engineering (GSSE) provides the opportunity for advanced study, laboratory experience, and research in a STEM field. You will participate in a variety of individualized and team projects that highlight many of the most exciting areas of STEM research. You will interact with leading scientists, mathematicians, and engineers in seminar discussions that emphasize research and its relation to society. Individualized and small group instruction is available in industrial engineering, materials science and engineering, biology, chemistry, mathematics, and physics. You will choose an elective course that will involve afternoon lecture and laboratory sessions in STEM. The morning courses taken by all students focus on basic scientific skills and the role science plays in our society. Other activities include lectures by experts on current trends in STEM research. In-class instruction is complemented by visits to STEM laboratories, companies with a STEM mission, and other team building exercises. The student is challenged to perform experiments, make experimental determinations, perform calculations, and communicate results by effective writing, and to consider the unique features of STEM as a professional discipline. GSSE is a four-week experience which offers students five (5) college credit hours, and exposes them to scientific disciplines in the University of Tennessee, Knoxville environment.

Prerequisites: Applicants must meet the following prerequisites -

- Possess excellent academic records and be able to demonstrate advanced critical thinking and analysis
- Must have completed at least one year of high school level laboratory science and one year of Algebra
- Have a GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Must be a rising Tennessee high school junior or senior (current sophomore or junior)

Due to the ongoing 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	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Only if it was a virtual program	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. I would attend either a resident or virtual program	<input type="checkbox"/>

Submitting the Application:

Completed applications should be submitted by the nominating educator to 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.

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 applications to GSSE electronically and provide all requested information no later than the deadline listed on the application.
2. Each Governor's School has specific essay and writing sample questions. All questions must be answered and submitted 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 included in the application packet.

For more information on the program, please visit <http://gsse.utk.edu>.

To apply, follow these steps on this website: <https://gsse.utk.edu/2023-gsse-application/>

If you have any questions, please contact GSSE by email (prep@utk.edu) or phone (865-974-9493). **Application deadline: Tuesday, January 15, 2023**

Additional guidance on completing the required forms can be found in the application packet under "Application Checklist."

Governor's Schools of Tennessee – Application Checklist

Is this application complete?

<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant Information Form <input type="checkbox"/> Completed by Applicant/parent/guardian
<input type="checkbox"/> Certification of Application <input type="checkbox"/> Signed by applicant <input type="checkbox"/> Signed by parent/guardian <input type="checkbox"/> Signed by counselor/ administrator
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Achievement Information <input type="checkbox"/> Completed and signed by counselor/principal
<input type="checkbox"/> Confidential Teacher Recommendation 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Completed and signed by teacher 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Confidential Teacher Recommendation 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Completed and signed by teacher 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Official Transcript
<input type="checkbox"/> Questions referred to on page 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Student responds to each question

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
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.

	Name	Subject
Teacher 1		
Teacher 2		

Governor's Schools of Tennessee - Applicant Information Form

Student Information			
Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	
Mailing Address	City	Zip Code	County
Home Phone	Cell Phone	Email Address	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Choose not to Answer	<input type="checkbox"/> Native American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Date of Birth Month/Day/Year	Gender Identity	Race (select all that apply)	

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

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 2022, 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 for Sciences and Engineering Application Questions

Instructions - Documents should be typed and submitted on a separate sheet of paper. Each question must be answered completely.

1. In an essay of 500 words or less, describe which STEM field interests you the most, how you became interested in that field, and what you plan to do in the future to pursue that interest. In this context, please also explain why you want to attend GSSE and how it will support your future plans in STEM.
2. In an essay of 500 words or less, describe your most challenging experience (academic, personal, etc.) and how you tackled it. What did you discover about yourself through this challenge and how will you apply it to future challenges.
3. Please choose up to (3) afternoon classes in our program that are of interest to you. Please list them in preferential order using 1, 2, and 3. For information on each course, please visit <https://gsse.utk.edu/academic-curriculum>
 - _____ Biology
 - _____ Chemistry
 - _____ Mathematics
 - _____ Physics
 - _____ Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISE)
 - _____ Materials Science Engineering (MSE)

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	
<input type="checkbox"/> 10 th <input type="checkbox"/> 11 th					
Current Grade	Class Size	Class Rank	"HOPE Scholarship GPA"	Cumulative GPA	
<input type="checkbox"/> CTE (specify career cluster)	<input type="checkbox"/> Science and Math	<input type="checkbox"/> Humanities	<input type="checkbox"/> Fine Arts	<input type="checkbox"/> AP/IB	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)
Elective Focus					
If the above-referenced students 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)
TCAP Writing Assessment			
Aptitude Tests			
Test	Grade Administered	Score	Percentile Ranking(s)
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)

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 – 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 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:

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

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

High Average Low

Continued on next page

**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?

- 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

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Name

Signature

Date