

ANNOUNCEMENT

Subject: Appalachian Regional Commission/Oak Ridge National Laboratory/Oak Ridge Associated Universities 2012 Middle School Summer Science Academy for students

To: Interested Middle School Students in New York State Appalachian Counties: Allegany, Broome, Chautauqua, Chemung, Cattaraugus, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Schoharie, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga and Tompkins

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is pleased to announce that it is collaborating with the U.S. Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, to provide a one-week residential hands-on science academy focusing on math, science, and technology for middle school students from **July 15 to 20, 2012**.



Twenty-six students from throughout Appalachia will be selected to participate in a hands-on learning program that will focus on the application of math and science principles in the world of work. See *Criteria for Selecting Participants* for specific eligibility requirements. (Participating Appalachian states may have additional criteria for selecting participants in their state.)

ORNL is one of the largest U.S. Department of Energy research facilities in the United States. It is devoted to multi-purpose research and development and is located approximately 20 miles northwest of Knoxville, Tennessee, near the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. ORNL is a U.S. Department of Energy facility managed by UT-Battelle. ORAU has a diverse array of complementary, and often unique, science education programs.



The ARC/ORNL/ORAU Summer Science Academy is a unique opportunity for students to work with research scientists on relevant math and scientific topics facing the world in the 21st century. Students work in teams on research projects during the one-week academy, with each team comprising three to six students. The team approach provides an opportunity to conduct research activities and solve problems in a group setting. Research topics and activities may include such areas as:

- Biofuels and Alternative Energy
- Climate Change and Global Warming
- Robotics
- Our Environment

The summer 2012 participants will be housed at a hotel in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, near ORNL and ORAU facilities. Students will be chaperoned 24 hours a day by experienced teachers.

All major expenses, including meals, lodging, transportation to and from the participant's home, and local transportation, will be covered for participants.

Participants will tour ORNL research facilities, use a variety of technologies to solve problems in ORAU's learning center, and participate in field trips to nearby industries, universities, and museums. Field trips will illustrate the applications of math and science in the real world and provide participants with opportunities to learn more about Appalachia and its unique characteristics.

New York applications are submitted through the State Education Department's Office of Curriculum and Instruction and must be received no later than Friday, February 24, 2012.

Program is dependent upon availability of funding.

**APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION/
OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY
OAK RIDGE ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES**

2012 MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER SCIENCE ACADEMY

Criteria for Selecting Participants

The Appalachian Regional Commission, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and Oak Ridge Associated Universities have established the following criteria for selecting participants for the Middle School Summer Science Academy. Appalachian states have the flexibility to add criteria, provided they do not conflict with those given below.

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS:

- Student participants must be between 12 and 14 years old on July 15, 2012.
- All participants must be U.S. citizens. (Required to obtain necessary security clearance to enter ORNL facilities.)
- Student participants must attend a public school in a designated Appalachian county and plan to enroll in a public school in an Appalachian county for the 2012-2013 school year.
- Children of employees of Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Oak Ridge Associated Universities are not eligible to participate.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

- Target Schools/Counties. States are encouraged to select participants from economically distressed counties and economically distressed areas.
- Schools Represented. States are encouraged to nominate two participants plus two or three additional students from the same school as “alternates.” Selecting students from the same school facilitates travel arrangements and enhances the experience; alternates are selected when one of the participant nominees is unable to attend or there are other openings.
- Participation in Other Programs. Students who have not had an opportunity to participate in previous Oak Ridge or similar math and science programs will be given priority.
- Family Income. ARC has not established income levels for participation. However, ARC requests that recruitment focus on those students whose families do not have the financial means to send them to such a program.
- Academic Requirements. ARC has not established academic requirements for participation. However, ARC requests that recruitment focus on “middle-tier” students – students who show potential in math and/or science and are not currently taking higher level classes, but may consider taking such classes with additional encouragement. Priority is given to students who would be first generation college-going. There is no minimum grade point average required for participation.

For more information or to submit your application please contact Will Jaacks, Associate in Science Education, New York State Education Department, Office of Curriculum and Instruction, Room 320 EB, 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12234, phone: 518-474-5922, email: ajaacks@mail.nysed.gov. You may also contact Jeffrey H. Schwartz, Ed. D., Education Program Manager, Appalachian Regional Commission, 1666 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20009-1068; telephone: 202-884-7721; e-mail: jschwartz@arc.gov.

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