



What is the National Youth Science Camp?

Since its inception in 1963 as part of West Virginia’s Centennial Celebration, The National Youth Science Camp’s summer program has offered educational forums and recreational activities that encourage the development of thoughtful scientific leadership. It is a residential science education program that honors and challenges two graduating high school science students from each state in the United States and others from selected countries around the world. Scientists from across the U.S. 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.

Who should apply to the National Youth Science Camp?

Potential delegates to the NYSCamp must meet all of the following guidelines:

- Be 16, 17 or 18 years of age on July 1, 2020, have strong skills in spoken English, and be eligible for a J-1 Visa to enter the United States.
- Be available to participate in the entire NYSCamp program;
- Demonstrate superior academic proficiency, including recognition in mathematics and/or the sciences;
- Demonstrate an application of leadership abilities and social maturity through involvement in both school and community activities;
- Demonstrate skills and achievements outside the realm of science and outside the realm of academic pursuits;
- Demonstrate a curiosity and an eagerness to explore many and varied topics; and
- Intend to pursue higher education and a career in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics related field.

How do I apply?

Submit to NIHERST, a completed application package that consists of:

- The International Delegate Application Cover Sheet;
- A letter detailing your qualifications, how you would benefit from the NYSCamp experience, and your thoughts on the social impacts of science (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 emphasizing academic achievements, interest in sciences or mathematics, leadership potential, and well-rounded development

What is the selection process like?

Applications received are screened to ensure that the students are eligible to apply for the scholarship. Applicants are then shortlisted whereby their application packages are scored against a set rubric. Applicants with the highest scores from their application package are then shortlisted. Only students who are shortlisted will move on to the interview phase and will be contacted for a scheduled interview. The applicants will be interviewed by a panel of judges which will consist of both the US Embassy and NIHERST personnel, after which two students will then be chosen as the delegates to represent Trinidad and Tobago at the National Youth Science Camp. Delegates would have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement, leadership in school and community activities, and a genuine interest in the sciences.

When is the application window to apply?

For local, Trinidad and Tobago citizens, March 5, 2020 – April 3, 2020.

How much does it cost to attend?

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

What are the goals of the National Youth Science Camp?

The National Youth Science Camp honours, 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, to inspire, and to encourage a sense of thoughtful scientific leadership among future scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and health care professionals.

Where is the camp held?

The National Youth Science Camp is held at Camp Pocahontas near Bartow, West Virginia in the eastern mountains of West Virginia's Potomac Highlands, close to the Green Bank Observatory (formally known as the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank, WV) and within the unique wilderness areas of the Monongahela National Forest. Because of the camp's location, delegates have the opportunity to visit the Green Bank Observatory 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 happens on a typical day at the National Youth Science Camp?

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 science seminars facilitated by guest scientists or NYSCamp staff members. The afternoon is reserved for activities such as seminars, athletic and recreational activities, art, and music. While seminar topics can be scientific, they often depart from science and encompass the personal interests of delegates, staff, and guests. All 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.

What is the National Youth Science Camp outdoor adventure program like?

To reinforce and encourage well-rounded development, the NYSCamp's scientific program is supplemented by an outdoor adventure program. Three times during camp, 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 try several different offerings. Participation is voluntary.

The list of eligible schools for 2020 is as follows:

North East District

Arima Central Secondary

Arima North Secondary

Brazil Secondary

Coryal Secondary

Guaico Secondary

Holy Cross College

Malabar Secondary

Manzanilla Secondary

Matelot Community College

Matura Secondary

North Eastern College

Sangre Grande Secondary

SWAHA Hindu College

Toco Secondary

Valencia Secondary

Sangre Grande Educational Institute

Bates Memorial High School of SDA

St. George East District

Aranguéz North Secondary

A.S.J.A. Girls' College, Tunapuna

Barataria North Secondary

Barataria South Secondary

Blanchisseuse Secondary

Bon Air Secondary

El Dorado East Secondary

El Dorado West Secondary

Five Rivers Secondary

Hillview College

Lakshmi Girls' Hindu College

Malick Secondary

Mt. Hope Secondary

San Juan North Secondary

San Juan South Secondary

St. Augustine Girls' High

St. Augustine Secondary

St. George's College

St. Joseph Secondary

St. Joseph's Convent, St. Joseph

Tunapuna Secondary

Bishop Anstey High (East)

Caribbean Union College, St. Joseph

St. Charles High

St. Joseph's College

Trinity College East

Chaconia Educational Institute

Northgate College

St. Augustine Community College

Port of Spain District

(Polytechnic) Sixth Form

Belmont Boys' Secondary

Belmont Secondary

Bishop Anstey High

Diego Martin North Secondary

Diego Martin Central Secondary

Fatima College

Holy Name Convent, Port of Spain

Morvant/Laventille Secondary

East Mucurapo Secondary

Mucurapo West Secondary

Providence Girls' High

Queen's Royal College

Russell Latapy Secondary (formerly Ibis High School)

South East Port-of-Spain Secondary

St. Anthony's College

St. Francois Girls' College

St. Joseph's Convent, Port of Spain

St. Mary's College

Success/Laventille Secondary

Tranquillity Secondary

Trinity College, Maraval

Woodbrook Secondary

St. James Secondary

Bishop Centenary College

Corpus Christi College

The International School of POS

British Academy of POS

Caroni District

A.S.J.A. Boys' College, Charlieville

A.S.J.A. Girls' College, Charlieville

Carapichaima East Secondary

Carapichaima West Secondary

Chaguanas North Secondary

Chaguanas South Secondary

Couva East Secondary

Couva West Secondary

Cunupia Secondary

Holy Faith Convent, Couva

Miracle Ministries Pentecostal High

Presentation College, Chaguanas

Preysal Secondary

Saraswati Girls' Hindu College

Vishnu Boys' Hindu College

Waterloo Secondary

Upper Level Educational Institute

Darul Uloom Boys College

Darul Uloom Girls College

Aranguez Educational Secondary

Academic College for Excellence

Chinmaya Vidyalaya High School