

2018 Field Ecology Summer Regional Governor's School
Dabney S. Lancaster Community College
Clifton Forge, Virginia 24422

Information and Application Packet

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the Field Ecology Summer Regional Governor's School?

The Field Ecology Summer Regional Governor's School at Dabney S. Lancaster Community College (DSLCC) is designed to inspire in our academically-gifted eighth through tenth grade students a respect for the bountiful natural environment that is their heritage, a heritage that might soon be lost if succeeding generations are not taught to preserve and cherish it. The aim of the Governor's School is to awaken an awareness and interest in native plant and animal life as a rich and varied natural resource. Emphasis is placed on the interrelationships between organisms and their natural environments and on the role and impact of humans on these ecosystems. Participants "learn" science by actually "doing" science.

When and where will the Governor's School operate?

The Governor's School operates Monday through Thursday at:

Location	Dates
Dabney S. Lancaster Community College 1000 Dabney Drive P.O. Box 1100 Clifton Forge, VA 24422	1 st Session: June 11 – June 21, 2018 2 nd Session: June 25 – July 6, 2018

Note: Neither transportation nor lodging accommodations are provided; students must arrive and leave daily according to the times designated on the itinerary. However, no potential participant will be denied admission to the program solely on the basis of lack of transportation. Car-pooling, especially for those traveling a considerable distance, is encouraged. Time will be made available to organize car pools during an orientation meeting required for all participants and their parents/guardians.

What will be offered in the Governor's School?

The curriculum includes classes, seminars, field trips, laboratory work, and field studies in a variety of topics from the general areas of:

- (a) Terrestrial and aquatic ecology
- (b) Camping and hiking

Who are the instructors for the Governor's School?

Instructors for the Governor's School are college and high school teachers who have experience with both the subject matter and the education of gifted students. Typically, the instructors have had previous experience with the Governor's School. Several other guest lecturers also will present a variety of topics.

How does the Governor's School differ from regular school?

Participants in the Governor's School come from various areas located within a fifty mile radius of Clifton Forge, Virginia. They have one thing in common: a desire to explore academic and/or

field studies at a level not always possible in their respective schools. Activities include lecture, seminars, field research, tours, and trips to unique environments.

Will grades or credit be given?

Yes. Upon successful completion of the program, each participant earns four semester hours of community college credit in natural science per session. Additionally, students receive a Certificate of Commendation from the Governor. A report of grades, course itinerary, and a copy of the certificate verifying participation are sent to his/her school upon completion of the program. Students register for the courses at the required orientation meeting prior to the start of Governor's School.

Who is eligible to attend the Governor's School?

Eighth and ninth grade students from public, private, and home schools are eligible to attend *if*: (1) they are academically gifted or show potential for excelling in biological field studies, (2) their overall achievement in school work is acceptable, (3) they have been residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia for at least one year and live within the service area of Dabney S. Lancaster Community College, and (4) they are nominated by their school. Tenth grade students are eligible to attend *if*: (1) they have attended one session of the Field Ecology Governor's School in a prior year, and (2) meet the same criteria as eighth and ninth grade participants. Second-year participants may only attend the session they did not attend previously.

How many students will the Governor's School accommodate?

Sixteen per session. Every attempt is made to get participants from every eligible school. Each school is assured of space for at least one participant if applications are received in a timely manner.

May anyone who wishes to do so attend the Governor's School?

No. There is a selection process established by each school division.

How will participants be selected?

Students are nominated by their superintendent, principal, counselor, science teacher, administrator of gifted programs, or a committee that has been established at their school. Nomination is based on academic potential, positive attitude, good citizenship, and maturity of judgment. The final nominees from a given school are ranked by a committee established at their school. The nominations are reviewed by the Governor's School staff. After this review the Program Directors notify the students of their selection as participant or alternate in the Governor's School by mid May 2018. Confirmation of the selections also is sent to school principals and division gifted program administrators.

What is the cost to participants?

The cost of field trips, tuition, and other activities planned for the Governor's School are paid from State and local school division funds for students enrolled in public schools. Students enrolled in private and home schools must personally pay the same fees charged to the school divisions, which are currently \$100.00 per session. The student must provide his/her own food, spending money, and transportation to and from the college daily.

Are participants allowed leaves-of-absence from the Governor's School?

No. Since time is limited and activities are planned for each day of the session and since any absence may significantly compromise the student's experience at the Governor's School,

students may not leave the school during its session, except in the case of emergencies. **Students must agree to remain as a participant in the Governor’s School for the entire period of activities.**

What are some of the responsibilities that participants might assume?

Each participant must share in all activities (academic and social) planned for them.

Further, they must adhere to the *Code of Conduct* provided below. Any infringement of these rules can result in immediate dismissal of the participant from the Governor’s School. **Before the student signs page 2 of the application form, please be sure that, if selected, he/she will subscribe to each of the items set forth in the *Code of Conduct* and *Discipline Procedures*.** All students are expected to read them and be prepared to follow them throughout the session.

Code of Conduct

The following rules are **in effect each day during the Governor’s School program and for the period of time during which participants are being transported to and from the program and field sites.**

1. It is expected that students will treat fellow students and staff members courteously, respecting the personal rights of others.
2. It is expected that students will respect the personal property rights of others. This includes appropriate care of facilities and materials belonging to Dabney S. Lancaster Community College. In case of intentional or accidental damage to property, cost of the damage will be assessed and billed to the student’s parents.
3. It is expected that students will attend all scheduled activities.
4. Possession and/or use of tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs is absolutely forbidden and will result in automatic and immediate dismissal and removal from the program
5. Personal electronic equipment of all sorts (iPods, radios, video games, tablets, *etc.*) is not allowed. Cell phones may be carried but not used while Governor’s School is in session, including field trips. Cell phone service is not available on most of the field trips.
6. The Governor’s School is a rigorous academic experience for highly qualified students. Although students are expected to enjoy the activities, **acquisition of knowledge is our goal—not simply having fun.** It is expected that students who are accepted will **apply themselves wholeheartedly to all phases of the experience and receive maximum benefit from the program.**
7. It is expected that students refrain from engaging in age-inappropriate social interaction during the Governor’s School session as well as abide by the camping code of conduct while on overnight excursions.
8. The Governor’s School recognizes the importance of social interaction between and among groups of students, but this **interaction is not to interfere with the importance given activities of the program.**

Discipline Procedures

In the event of suspected infraction of Code of Conduct standards, any person involved may report the incident to the Program Directors. The Director(s) will interview the student(s) involved in the alleged incident. All parties will be given full due process rights including opportunity to present their views and any pertinent evidence to the Disciplinary Review Board consisting of the Governor's School staff. The decision of this Board regarding any disciplinary action will be final. The Program Directors will inform the parents/guardians and the school division by phone, then by follow-up letter, of the decision of the Board. Any infraction of the Code of Conduct verified by the Disciplinary Review Board will result in immediate dismissal and removal from the School.

"Helpful Hints" In Completing the Application Form

1. Be sure to include the area code when giving your phone number.
2. **Do not omit any information requested!** Remind persons making a recommendation to answer *all* questions. If certain questions are not applicable, answer NA.
3. You are to select a science teacher who can evaluate you on the criteria listed. **Remind them to respond to all questions.** Please have that teacher complete the application/reference form promptly and return it to your school principal **by the date he/she designates.**
4. It is your responsibility to take the parent/guardian section and Release Form home to have it read, filled in, and signed by your parent/guardian.

ALL PAGES OF THE APPLICATION FORM SHOULD BE ASSEMBLED INTO ONE COMPLETE PACKET.

If you have other questions, please contact your **principal, counselor, gifted administrator, or science teacher.**

*Dabney S. Lancaster Community College is an
Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution*

**OPERATION OF THIS PROGRAM CONTINGENT
ON ADEQUATE FUNDING!**