

The Field Academy: Personal & Academic Recommendations

We require all applicants to submit two recommendations: one academic (from a teacher, guidance counselor, or academic mentor), and one personal (from a family member, friend, coach, or other important figure in your life). Here are some things to consider and some steps to take when you ask people to write your recommendations:

1. Ask people who are significant to you—people whose perspective YOU seek out and respect (these are the people from whom we want to hear!).
2. Ask people who have spent enough time with you to be able to answer the questions we ask, and be able to answer them well.
3. Be confident and respectful when you ask people. Tell them why you think they would be good people to fill out your recommendation. If you're asking a teacher, offer to give him or her some of the work you did for that class—this may help your teacher to be specific in talking about your academic skills. (And give him or her the work that makes you most proud.)
4. Ask people ahead of time—they will be much more impressed with you if you do not ask them the night before the recommendation is due.
5. Give your recommenders a timeframe; **let them know when it is due.**
6. Tell your recommenders a bit about what the Field Academy is and why you are applying to it. This may help them understand what kinds of things they want to say to us.
7. Give your recommenders our address—let them know how to get us the document. If you can, give your recommenders a stamped envelope pre-addressed to the Field Academy. Make it as easy for them as possible.

Please print out the following pages, fill out your name and other information at the top, and ask the person filling it out to mail it to us at the following address:

The Field Academy
131 Swamp Road
Richmond, VT 05477

Section 3a: Academic Recommendation

Hello from the Field Academy!

The student who asked you to write this recommendation is applying to study and travel with the Field Academy's this summer. The expedition will be a rigorous five-week program that combines deep academic exploration of place, outdoor adventure (including a 4-day backpacking trip), and a strong focus on community. The mission? To engage the United States as our classroom and its people and places as our textbook.

Please answer the following questions in detail, using specific examples and stories from your experiences with the applicant. Please attach your answers to this form and send them to:

The Field Academy
131 Swamp Road
Richmond, VT 05477

Or email them to us:
apply@fieldacademy.org

Name of Applicant: _____

Name of Recommender: _____

How long have you known the applicant? In what capacity or capacities? _____

Recommender Email Address: _____

Recommender Phone Number: _____

Would you allow the applicant to read this recommendation? **Yes** **No**

1. We are interested in learning about academic situations in which this applicant thrives. Tell us about a time when the applicant was at his or her best as a student. What happened? What did the applicant do or say? What happened afterwards?
2. We are also interested in learning about the applicant's learning and development goals. If you were going to identify three areas in which you'd like to see the applicant develop, what would they be? These could be based in specific knowledge areas (math, writing, history, etc.) or, be more broad: skills, abilities, or attitudes. Please explain why you have identified these particular growth areas.
3. Studying with the Field Academy is an adventurous and rigorous experience, and we want to ensure that each student's individual needs are met and that personal learning goals are set appropriately. Is there anything else you believe we should know in order to best support this applicant?
4. What will you always remember about this applicant?

Section 3b: Personal Recommendation

Hello from the Field Academy!

The student who asked you to write this recommendation is applying to study and travel with the Field Academy's this summer. The expedition will be a rigorous five-week program that combines deep academic exploration of place, outdoor adventure (including a 4-day backpacking trip), and a strong focus on community. The mission? To engage the United States as our classroom and its people and places as our textbook.

Please answer the following questions in detail, using specific examples and stories from your experiences with the applicant. Please attach your answers to this form and send them to:

The Field Academy
131 Swamp Road
Richmond, VT 05477

Or email them to us:
apply@fieldacademy.org

Name of Applicant: _____

Name of Recommender: _____

How long have you known the applicant? In what capacity or capacities? _____

Recommender Email Address: _____

Recommender Phone Number: _____

Would you allow the applicant to read this recommendation? Yes No

1. We want to know about this applicant's strengths. Can you tell us about a time when the applicant did something that inspired you? What did the applicant do or say? What impact did it have on you or on others? What impact did it have on the applicant?
2. One of the core values of the Field Academy is *Community & Diversity*. We live and travel in small, tight groups, and a student's active participation in that community is critical for his or her success at the Field Academy. Participating actively in community can look very different from person to person, however; what is this applicant like in a community? Tell us about a time when you saw the applicant at his or her best in a community (whether at home, in school, at work, with peers, in a neighborhood, or in another group of people).
3. Studying with the Field Academy is an adventurous and rigorous experience, and we want to ensure that each student's individual needs are met and that personal learning goals are set appropriately. Is there anything else you believe we should know in order to best support this applicant?
4. What will you always remember about this applicant?