

The Field Academy: Student Application

Section 0.5: Welcome

Hi there.

Before we begin, let's make sure that you're in the right place. The document you have just opened is the application for the Field Academy's 2016 summer program. This means you are applying for this:

Climate Change, Economics, and Community Leadership: Central Appalachia

A 5-week expedition to North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee

- **Expedition Dates:** June 23rd - July 25th, 2015 (33 days)
- **Tuition:** sliding scale from \$500 - \$5,495

Sound exciting?

Still with us?

Excellent.

We are ridiculously glad to have you.

We put together this application packet because we want to get to know you. We want to hear about who you are, we want to know about how other people see you, and we want to understand what makes you the awesome individual you undoubtedly are. We hope you'll enjoy answering the questions we ask, and we hope they will make you think more (and perhaps realize something new) both about who you are and what you want in the world.

Please let us know if you have any questions about any part of this. We love answering questions.

And now, let the adventure begin.

Over & out,

Heather, Jen, & the rest of the Field Academy

Section 1: Student Information

First Name: _____ **Last Name:** _____

Preferred Name: _____ **Gender:** _____

Current Grade: _____ **Age:** _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Home Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

Email Address: _____

Current School: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____

Guardian 1: Mother Father Other **Guardian 2:** Mother Father Other

Name: _____ **Name:** _____

Address (if different from above) _____ **Address (if different from above)** _____

Street Address: _____ **Street Address:** _____

City: _____ **City:** _____

State: _____ **Zip:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Home Phone: _____ **Home Phone:** _____

Cell Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

Work Phone: _____ **Work Phone:** _____

Email Address: _____ **Email Address:** _____

How did you hear about the Field Academy? _____

Will you be applying for outside scholarship and/or are you interested in financial aid? Yes No
If so, please also be sure to fill out our Financial Aid Application.

Will you be applying for one of our Regional Student Fellowships? Yes No
If so, please read the information in Section 3 of the Financial Aid Application.

Section 2: Student Essays

Section A: *For first-time applicants to the Field Academy.*

Please answer the following questions with detail; to do so, please make every answer at least half a page in length. Use your answers to tell us about yourself; feel free to be as creative as you want to be. We are not looking for one specific answer—there is no right answer to any of these questions—we merely want to know more about YOU. Who you are. What you love. What makes you unique. That kind of thing. You may type your answers, hand-write them (neatly, please), or choose another way to convey them to us. We can't wait to see what you say.

1. What aspects of the Field Academy's program and style of education resonate most with you? What excites you about the Field Academy? Why?
2. What do you hope to learn, discover, and/or explore while traveling in Central Appalachia this summer? What motivates you to learn about climate change, activism, and community leadership by traveling?
3. Tell us about something you are in the process of learning or that you have learned in the past month that feels significant to you. This doesn't necessarily have to be something that you're learning in school. We're curious to know what you are learning about currently that feels like it has real and deep significance for your life. Why and how are you learning it? What have you learned? What will you do with what you have learned?
4. If you could change one thing in your community, what would it be? How would you, personally, change it? Your community could be your school, family, neighborhood, town, region – however you define it.
5. What is one big, audacious goal that you have for yourself in your life?
6. What do you feel are the most important elements of your identity, of "who you are"? This could include age, gender, ethnic background, socioeconomic status, religion or anything else that feels important to how you see yourself in relation to the world. We ask because it is important to us to bring together people with lots of different identities, and to build a program that strives towards co-creating safe space.

Choose one of the following questions to answer:

1. Who were you in a past life? What parts of that person are still in you?
2. What's the best thing you've ever made? Why did you create it? Where is it now?
3. If you could pick a lyric from a song, a line from a poem, a quotation from a movie, or an excerpt from a book to represent you in this moment, what would it be and why?

Section B: *For returning students.*

We are psyched that you are considering another adventure with the Field Academy! As before, we want to learn more about you through these essays. Please answer the following questions with detail; to do so, please make every answer at least half a page in length. You may type your answers, hand-write them (neatly, please), or choose another way to convey them to us.

1. Why are you interested in more experiences with the Field Academy?
2. Why are you interested in traveling throughout Central Appalachia this summer (specifically NC, VA, WV, KY, TN)? What do you hope to learn, discover, and/or explore? What motivates you to learn about climate change, activism, and community leadership by traveling?
3. How will another program with the Field Academy help you to meet the goals you have set for yourself in the next three years?

4. Tell us about something new that you are learning. Something that has real and deep significance for your life. Why and how are you learning it? What have you learned?
5. What does it mean to be advocate for your own education? How are you one?
6. What do you feel are the most important elements of your identity, of “who you are”? This could include age, gender, ethnic background, socioeconomic status, religion or anything else that feels important to how you see yourself in relation to the world. We ask because it is important to us to bring together people with lots of different identities, and to build a program that strives towards co-creating safe space.

Choose one of the following questions to answer (Note: Choose one you have not answered before...):

1. Who were you in a past life? What parts of that person are still in you?
2. What’s the best thing you’ve ever made? Why did you create it? Where is it now?
3. If you could pick a lyric from a song, a line from a poem, a quotation from a movie, or an excerpt from a book to represent you in this moment, what would it be and why?

Section 3: 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
27 East Village Drive
Burlington, VT
05401

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 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 to learn from and with people and places.

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
27 East Village Drive
Burlington, VT 05401

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 to learn from and with people and places.

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
27 East Village Drive
Burlington, VT 05401

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?

Section 4: Additional Information
This is completely optional.

Sometimes the questions on an application don't quite get at *everything*. Is there anything else you think we should know about you?

Section 5: Testament of Authenticity

Please sign the following:

I attest that, to the best of my knowledge, everything in this application is true. I attest that the essays are my own work and that the transcripts and recommendations being submitted upon my behalf are authentic.

I am submitting these materials enthusiastically, believing that I have done my best to convey my interests, abilities, passions, and questions. I am submitting these materials with the support of my parent/guardian(s) whose signature is listed below along with my own.

Signature:

Date:

Printed Name:

Parent Signature:

Date:

Printed Name:

If you have any additional questions, please put them below; we will answer them when we receive this application. If more questions arise after you have submitted this form, please email us at apply@fieldacademy.org.

Additional Questions:

Section 6: Application Checklist

Please ensure that your application is complete. It should contain the following:

- Completed Application Form**
- Student Essays**
- Regional Student Scholarship Essay** (optional, only if applying for a Regional Scholarship)
- Testament of Authenticity**
- Academic Recommendation**
Please have your recommender send this directly to us.
- Personal Recommendation**
Please have your recommender send this directly to us.
- Official School Transcript**
Your school can send this directly to us.

Send your completed application materials to:

The Field Academy
27 East Village Drive
Burlington, VT 05401

You may also scan* the documents, or take a high quality digital photograph of them, and email them to us at the following address: apply@fieldacademy.org

Please make a copy of your application and keep it for yourself.

This will be helpful if anything gets lost in the mail. It's also just a cool thing to have.

If you think you will have a difficult time getting us the application, please let us know. We want this process to be easy for you, and we have many ideas about how you can get us the information we need.

We will notify you within 48 hours that we have received your application.

If you have any questions at any stage in this process, we would love to answer them. Seriously. Love to. Send us an email.

* If you're not sure where to find a scanner, here are some quick ideas. You can try the computer lab or the main office at your school. You can ask a friend. You can check at your local library. You can ask someone who works in an office or business (a friend's parent, neighbor, or community member). You can try find a local copy store (or a Staples or Kinko's type of store).