

National Youth Science Foundation®

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The enclosed information is important. Included is a description of our outdoor program, information about the insurance coverage that each student needs, and consent forms which must be completed before your son, daughter, or charge comes to the Green Bank session of the West Virginia Governor's School for Mathematics and Science. We ask that you discuss with him/her the materials that follow, sign the student information form, and RETURN the completed form to the Foundation's office as soon as practical.

The information provided describes activities that have long been an integral part of the GSMS's recreational program. We view these activities as a very important component of our program because they embody aspects of well-rounded development, which we believe, is essential to healthy individual growth. The outdoor program provides delegates an opportunity to develop special skills and feelings of self-sufficiency. It also offers situations that encourage the development of group camaraderie, cooperation and leadership skills. We hope to teach the students that few things are impossible if tackled in the right way with the right attitude. Participating in our outdoor program provides introduction to challenging, natural history based activities that may be enjoyed and pursued throughout a lifetime. However, because serious injury is possible from such participation, the Foundation must advise students and parents of the serious risks and responsibilities that are assumed with participation.

The following information does not describe simply the outdoor program. It describes the physical risks involved with participation in the specific activities and the limits of insurance coverage we have obtained to cover those risks. For many associated with the GSMS, these outdoor activities are *ordinary* - not something associated with risk. There are, however, risks involved with any recreational activity, and we want you and your son/daughter to enter into these activities fully informed so that you are not unduly surprised when learning of them after the GSMS has begun. Safety has always been a primary concern at the GSMS. Though we encourage student participation in all activities, participation in outdoor activities that are designated of *higher risk* will be only on a voluntary basis with parental permission and with the parent and student assuming the financial and other risks.

Please review the following attachments:

1. A Notice to Students and Parents Concerning the West Virginia Governor's School for Mathematics and Science's Outdoor Program and Associated Risks;
2. Student Information Form. Please review, sign, and return the form to us once completed, registering any limitations and your consent;
3. NRAO release forms.

With respect to the entire GSMS experience, delegates attending the program should be afforded the opportunity to examine their capacities, interests, ideals, and aspirations without disruptions and distractions. To this end, we are committed to operating an intellectually stimulating program free from alcohol and drugs. Further, the GSMS environment promotes gender and ethnic equity and prohibits intimate sexual contact and displays of affection. We look forward to having your son or daughter participate in our program.

Sincerely,



Judge Ronald G. Pearson
Chairman, Board of Trustees
National Youth Science Foundation

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