

# Science Adventure School Guardian Info Session



West Virginia University

BRAD AND ALYS SMITH OUTDOOR ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATIVE



SCIENCE ADVENTURE SCHOOL

# What is SAS?

- /// Science Adventure School is an overnight outdoor STEM orientation program just for WV sixth graders.
- /// We help students adjust to a new school and classmates, get to know a teacher in their school, and be inspired to learn and grow.
- /// Our curriculum
  - /// Science Behind the Sport
  - /// Environmental Education
  - /// Positive Youth Development

**Let's see what a day at SAS looks like...**



# A Day in the Life at SAS





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# Sample Schedule

Time	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6:30		Wake Up		
7:00-7:45		Breakfast		
8:00-9:00		Archery	Freshwater Ecology	Canoeing or Zipline
9:00-10:00	Students arrive!	Wildlife Ecology		Closing Activity, packing
10:00-11:00	Orientation			
11:00-12:00	Unpacking			
12:00-1:00	Lunch			
1:00-2:00	Games, teambuilding, site exploration	Rock Climbing	Soil Science	Students depart
2:00-3:00			BMX Biking	
3:00-4:00				
4:00-5:00				
5:00-5:45	Dinner			
6:00-7:00	Shower Hour & Free Time			
7:00-8:00	Evening Discussion			
8:15-9:15	Evening Activity (student's choice)		Campfire!	
9:15-9:45	Get ready for bed			
9:45	Lights Out			





# Challenge By Choice

- ✓ Your child will never be forced to do something that they find scary or too uncomfortable.
- ✓ We will encourage them to try but will always find a level of challenge that feels good to them.



# Cost

- /// SAS is **FREE** to all public-school students (your county pays \$74 per student).
- /// Private/homeschool students will vary based on the school. We still ask for \$74 per student.
- /// (The actual cost of SAS is \$750+ per student.)







# We have 4 locations

- /// Summit Bechtel Reserve
- /// Jackson's Mill 4-H Camp
- /// WVU Outdoor Education Center
- /// Heritage Farms



# Lodging

- Students will lodge with other students of the same gender.
- Staff are always nearby.
- All tents/yurts/cabins are located near a bathhouse or bathroom.





# Food

- ✓ Breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as 2-4 snacks per day.
- ✓ We can handle almost any nutritional or dietary needs.
- ✓ We can handle picky eaters.
- ✓ **Outside snacks and drinks are not allowed at SAS,** (except when cleared by the nurse for medical reasons), because of wildlife.



# Student Health

- ✓ All SAS staff and have, minimally, a First Aid/CPR certification.
  - ✓ Many have more advanced medical certifications.
- ✓ We have camp nurse (RN) to oversee medical issues and medications.
- ✓ We will call you if any issues arise





# Medications

- Medications will only be dispensed to your child as advised by their personal health plan, under the supervision of the nurse.
- Should your child need over-the-counter medication it will not be provided without permission from listed guardian.



# Security

- ✓ Access to our sites are restricted to SAS staff and instructors, nursing and medical team members, and authorized groups.
- ✓ All staff and volunteers undergo background checks.
- ✓ We do not allow anyone else on-site (including parents/guardians of our students).
- ✓ If a parent needs access to pick up a student in the event of emergency, they will have to bring an ID and their student will be brought to them at the gate.
- ✓ We take student security seriously!



# Our Staff

- ✓ College graduates or equivalent experience.
- ✓ Background checked and youth protection trainings
- ✓ Go through a rigorous training process that covered physical and mental needs of youth.
- ✓ Constantly in touch with full time staff to solve problems.

- ✓ About half are from WV and half are from all over the country/world!



# Packing List

- ✓ Please don't buy things!
- ✓ We have equipment which can be borrowed. If you do not have items on the list, please do not let that stop your student from joining us.
- ✓ If you need to borrow an item let us know.

Provided Items	
X	Tent
X	Sleeping Pad
X	Cot

Hygiene: Travel size if possible	
	Toothbrush and toothpaste
	Sunscreen and bug spray
	Shower supplies- Soap, shampoo
	Towel
	Deodorant

Lower Body (non-cotton)	
	Undergarments
	2-3 Pairs athletic shorts
	2 Pair athletic pants
	1 Pair long underwear (fleece, syn- Gloves
	2 Pairs closed toe shoes
	4-5 pairs socks, non-cotton if possi-

**Don't forget things like feminine products, protect high friction areas.**

**Suggested optional items:**

**Tampons**

Other	
	Required Medications
	Warm Sleeping Bag
	Bag or Tote for packing
	Daypack/small backpack
	Headlight or Flashlight w/backup batteries
	Sunglasses (optional)
	Camp Chair (optional)
	Travel Pillow (optional)
	Glasses/Contacts w/backup-up
	Trash bag or grocery bag for dirty clothes

Upper Body (non-cotton)	
	4-5 Synthetic T-shirts
	2-3 Long sleeve synthetic shirts
	1 Warm layer (e.g. Fleece)
	Sun hat/baseball cap (optional)
	1 Warm jacket
	Gloves
	Warm hat
	Bandanna (optional)

Rain Gear	
	Waterproof jacket or poncho
	Rain pants (optional)





# Electronics and Phone Policy

- Students are not allowed to carry cell phones during regular program hours.
  - This also includes any other electronics, (i.e.- gaming devices, music players, iPads)
- We highly encourage that phones be left at home!
  - Phones will be collected and secured by SAS staff.
- In case of emergency:
  - We will contact you or a another designated contact.
  - If you must contact your student please refer to the emergency contact number - **304-293-6669**.
  - It will go to someone who will be able to get in touch with the Site Director.

# Research

- Science Adventure School is a grant-funded program, so we collect data to help funding efforts to keep the program free for families.
- If you and your student opt-in, they will be asked to fill out a survey and might be interviewed.







# Homesickness

- /// Homesickness is not uncommon at Science Adventure School!
- /// If your student feels homesick, a SAS staff will work to make them feel better.
- /// In cases of extreme homesickness, we will call you.



# What's Next?

- ✓ Your school likely already made a reservation for your student's sixth grade class.
- ✓ Please fill out the student interest online form (Qualtrics).
- ✓ We'll follow up with you via email.
- ✓ Your school's contact teacher will also be in touch with you.







# Q & A

**We're sure you have a lot of questions!**

**How can we help?**