

# Welcome to Science Adventure School!

## Message From the Director

Dear families,

We can't express how excited we are to get to work with your students this fall! We have been hard at work creating hands-on, engaging, adventurous, and empowering curriculum all designed to get your students excited to learn. Throughout the week we will learn about unique qualities in WV and ourselves, tap into our inner scientist, learn new recreational skills, and grow with our friends and teachers.

I want to acknowledge this sensitive time for your family. Transitions are difficult, and we feel lucky to be able to spend this precious time with your students. Please know that our world-class staff team is ready to guide your students through this journey while easing worries and empowering them to overcome challenges. You and your students' well-being will always be our first priority... with fun being a close second!

Inside this handbook you will find essential information about our program, and it will likely answer many of the questions you may have about SAS. Please take some time to familiarize yourself with the contents. If you have any questions, please feel welcome to reach out.

It is my absolutely pleasure to welcome you to the SAS family. Let us all continue to engage, explore, learn, and grow.... together.

Cheers to a fantastic 2021/2022 school year! Thank you for allowing us to be a part of it.

In education and adventure,



Science Adventure School Director, Ali Jeney

## Contact Information

### Science Adventure School

Email: SAS@mail.wvu.edu

Phone: 304-293-7190

Address: 2001 Rec Center Drive,  
Morgantown, WV 26505

### Summit Bechtel Reserve

Address:

255 Jack Furst Dr.

Glen Jean, WV 25846

\*When using a GPS enter "Glen Jean Post Office" to find the correct Summit entrance

# Science Adventure School Handbook Summary

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## Student Health and Wellness

### Injury or Illness (pg. 7)

- Every SAS team member has First Aid and CPR certification
- In case of emergency all student's medical information and emergency contacts are available to staff members. Emergency contacts will be promptly called.
- Science Adventure School works closely with emergency responders to provide quick and responsive care. All SAS sites have easy access to services should they be needed

### Medication (pg. 7)

- Medications will only be dispensed to your child as advised by their personal health plan. Should your child need over-the-counter medication it will not be provided without permission from listed parent or guardian
- All prescription and predetermined over-the-counter medication needed must be listed on your student's health plan and delivered to SAS staff on the day of arrival.

### Homesickness (pg. 8)

- Homesickness is not uncommon at Science Adventure School. If a student feels homesick SAS will attempt to encourage them to stay and we ask that you please help us to comfort and encourage your student to stay.

### Pick Up (pg. 7)

- All early departures must be approved and coordinated by a Science Adventure School director or coordinator
- In the event of needing to be picked up early authorized guardians may pick up students between 8a—8p
- Only those listed on student's emergency form will be allowed to pick up a child. No exceptions.

### Physical Activity (pg. 6)

- Students should be prepared to walk to each program area and be physically active while at SAS

### Meals and Lodging (pg. 5)

- Students will receive 3 well balanced, kid friendly meals and 1-2 snacks each day.
- We are fully equipped to accommodate any dietary restriction your student may have. Let SAS staff know about allergies and dietary restrictions ASAP by contacting SAS@mail.wvu.edu or 304-293-7190
- Outside snacks and drinks are not allowed at SAS
- Students will share a tent or cabin with others of the same gender. Each student will be provided a sleeping pad and cot

# Science Adventure School Handbook Summary

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## Risk Management

### Cell Phones (pg. 9)

- Students are not allowed to carry cell phones during regular programming hours
- Cell phones will be collected and secured by SAS staff during programming hours and returned for 1-2 hours in the evening during free time
- In case of an emergency all students will have access to the SAS emergency phone
- If you must contact your student in case of an emergency please refer to the emergency contact numbers on page 1

### Security (pg. 9)

- Students will remain in groups with at least two adults at all times. All adults interacting with your child have undergone extensive background checks and child protection training
- Any student pick up must be coordinated with a SAS staff coordinator. Early student pick-up must occur between 8am-8pm
- Parents and legal guardians must bring a state issued ID to pick up a student

## Behavior and Commitment

### Behavior (pg. 10)

- If behavioral challenges arise that are harmful to self or other students such challenges will be dealt with by SAS staff with assistance from teachers. If challenges remain or student does not wish to continue at SAS parent or guardian will be responsible for retrieving their child.

### Challenge By Choice (pg. 9)

- Your child will never be forced to do something that they find scary or too uncomfortable
- If a student insists on leaving it will be the responsibility of the parent to retrieve them from the Summit Bechtel Reserve at the provided time. **Do not show up unannounced.**

# Science Adventure School General Information

At Science Adventure School we pride ourselves on our risk averse and nurturing environment of learning that enables students to grow through fun, intentional, and developmentally-appropriate activities.

Science Adventure School strives to provide a quality program filled with carefully chosen educators filled with excitement around sharing science and celebrating West Virginia. We believe that children are our most important resource and that their educational experiences are crucial in the development of their future. Each staff member strives to offer an environment that is high in quality and stimulates the child's senses and where warmth and friendship are abundant. Science Adventure School is geared toward helping your child develop habits of observation, questioning and listening while building a positive self-esteem.

## General Information

### Curriculum

Students will experience two types of science learning: STEM and Environmental Education. STEM lessons tend to be more structured around an activity, while Environmental Ed. is open and designed for students to explore natural science at their own pace. Occasionally, students have difficulty switching mindsets from highly structured to open exploration or vice versa, but we think it's important for them to experience both! You can help by encouraging them to try both kinds of activities fully.

### Student Schedule Example

Session	Time	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast	7:00 - 7:30		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
	7:45 - 8:45		Phenology	Wetlands	Big Zip & Bead Ceremony & Pack Up
	8:45 - 9:45		Rockclimbing	Wetlands	
	9:45 - 10:45	Students Arrive!	Rockclimbing	Archery	
	10:45 - 11:45	Camp Set Up/FVC	Rockclimbing	Archery	
Lunch Block	11:45 - 12:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
	12:00 - 1:15	Scavenger Hunt	Science Identity	Sense of Place	Students Depart
	1:30 - 2:30		Canopy Tour	Freshwater Ecology	
	2:30 - 3:30		Canopy Tour	Freshwater Ecology	
	3:30 - 4:30		Canopy Tour	Freshwater Ecology	
	4:30 - 5:30		Canopy Tour	Freshwater Ecology	
	5:30 - 6:30	Free time	Free time	Free time	
Dinner	6:30 - 7:00	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	
	7:00 - 8:15	Discussions	Discussions	Discussions	
	8:15 - 9:00	Evening Activity	Evening Activity	Final Celebration	
	9:00 - 10:00	Bedtime Prep	Bedtime Prep	Bedtime Prep	
	10:00	Lights Out	Lights Out	Lights Out	

# Science Adventure School General Information

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## Food and Hydration

Students will be eating alongside other students, their teachers, and Science Adventure School Staff for meals. Your child will be provided with a healthy and plentiful breakfast, lunch, and dinner, as well as nutritional snacks as needed throughout the day. We have established daily meals and snacks in accordance with the WV Child Nutrition office for daily caloric intake suitable for children in this age range. In addition, your child will be encouraged to drink water frequently, while milk, and other nutritional beverages will be provided. Each meal will be served in our open-air dining tent or packed daily and enjoyed at the activity locations.

We are equipped to accommodate any dietary restrictions your child may require. Please let us know before your child comes to SAS so that we are fully prepared to accommodate these restrictions (this will be included in the information packet required to secure your child's spot). Should your child have a food-related allergy, please be sure this information is included in their registration and medical release forms. **It cannot be overstated that the earlier this information is communicated to us, the better prepared we are to ensure your child's safety and enjoyment.**

## Lodging

Sturdy and weatherproof lodging will be provided for all students who visit SAS. Students of the same gender will be assigned to each tent. Boys and girls will stay in separate areas of the camps. Our supportive network of teachers, leaders, and facilitators will also stay interspersed throughout the campground and will ensure that rules regarding sleeping arrangements are strictly enforced.

All tents will be located near a bathhouse equipped with flushing toilets and ambient temperature showers. Students are encouraged to bring toiletries like shampoo, toothpaste, bodywash, etc. but those items will be provided if the student does not bring their own. There are several bathhouses with restrooms, flushing toilets, and private showers in each campsite. Adequate time will be given for your child to take care of their personal needs while at the campsite as well as during various activities throughout Science Adventure School.

Electrical outlets are available near each campsite or bathhouse. We do not recommend bringing any electronic devices beyond what is absolutely necessary. Tents do not have electricity or lighting of any kind. Headlamps are good to read by at night, but your student may also wish to bring a portable lamp to give them more light during the evenings. If your student does not have a headlamp or flashlight we are happy to provide one. All students must be in their tents by 9:45, all lights must be out by 10pm.

Your student will be provided with a cot. If your student has a sleeping bag or pad we ask that they please bring it with them. If not, there is no need to purchase one, we're happy to provide sleeping pads and bags. It is also perfectly acceptable to bring blankets and pillow as an alternative.

# Science Adventure School General Information

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## Birthdays

We are happy to help your child celebrate their birthday while at SAS! All students with birthdays during SAS will receive an exclusive commemorative item and have their first choice of evening activities on their birthday. We will also do our best to have birthday cake as the evening meal dessert. Although we do our best to catch every birthday by the information you provide in your students information packet, please also feel welcome to email [SAS@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:SAS@mail.wvu.edu) to insure we don't miss it!

## Physical Activity

Science Adventure School is situated in a wide variety in terrain types. Your student should be prepared to be physically active during their time at SAS. Please be sure your student brings a good pair of shoes to walk in. Hiking shoes are not required, any athletic shoe will work. If available, a second pair of shoes will be helpful in case of rain or walking through wet terrain. Each day will feature walking to and from each class site, which may sometimes be up steep hills.

## Outside Temperatures

Because of our location, temperatures can vary wildly throughout the day. Mornings can be cool, afternoons hot and humid, and night chilly, or it could be completely the opposite! Please consider packing multiple layers to deal with the temperature variation. Warm jackets, fleece, hats, and sleeping bags will be available to all students.

## Success Practices and Procedures

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We truly understand the importance of trusting a provider to care for your child. As parents, we want to ensure that our child is protected and nurtured. This is absolutely the peace of mind you will receive with your child enrolled in our program. If you have any questions about medical issues, medications, or general student wellbeing please reference page number one for the appropriate phone number or email address.

### Student Health and Wellness

#### Injury or Illness

If your child becomes ill or sustains an injury, please be assured that we have a system in place to ensure care is promptly delivered to your child. It is required that every SAS instructor and team leader have, minimally, First Aid/CPR Certification before working with your children. Many of our staff are Wilderness First Aid, Wilderness First Responders, lifeguards, and EMTs. Additionally, the Summit Bechtel Reserve is staffed 24/7 with EMTs and paramedics right here on site. We are ready to effectively handle a wide range of medical issues that may arise. The emergency contact(s) on the child's information forms will promptly be called, briefed, and consulted for any action.

Prescription medication and over-the-counter medication will be dispensed to your child by trained medicine administrators. Please be advised that our medical staff will consult the child's medical form prior to dispensing medication. Should there be a specific medication you do NOT want our medical staff to dispense to your child, this should be clearly stated on the medical form. Parents will always be contacted before dispensing non-prescription, over-the-counter medications if permission is not provided on the participant information form.

#### Medication

Any regularly taken prescription or over-the-counter medication **MUST** be listed on your Science Adventure School paperwork. We are unable to allow students to take any medications that are not listed on their medical form and were not given to Science Adventure School in the original manufacturer's or prescription bottle.

#### Lice

We have adopted a "No Nit" policy. Prior to camp, we strongly recommend having your student checked for lice. If your student is identified as having lice or nits, staff will contact you. You must pick up your child within 6 hours of the phone call informing you of the lice and/or nits. Students may only return once they have been identified as free from lice and nits by a professional lice company at your expense. Proof of treatment must be presented upon returning. In the meantime, students identified as having lice will be separated from other students and will not be able to participate in SAS activities. If lice are discovered during camp and after the initial screening has been conducted: a. The other students in that student's group will be re-screened, b. The families of other students in that student's group will be advised by email correspondence.

## Success Practices and Procedures

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### Homesickness

We understand this is a first time camp experience for so many of our students and they can sometimes get homesick or miss family. While every effort will be made on our behalf to ensure your child feels welcome and encouraged, we do understand this situation may occur. We encourage all our students to stick out the full three nights and give it their best. Our experience has proven that students who are homesick the first day or two are the students who wish they could stay longer on days three and four.

We ask that you work with us to empower and encourage your child as they gain the confidence and build friendships to support their decision to stay. It's helpful to teach students about homesickness (this is a feeling that tells you you're missing home and that's okay!), let them know it is normal, and talk about things that might help. If you aren't sure how to best encourage your student, reach out to a SAS admin and we will work together.

However, if the decision is made for the child to leave SAS, we will support that decision. We understand that being away from home takes practice. If your student must leave early, it will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian to travel to Science Adventure School to pick up your child. Hours for pick up are 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. **Please do not show up unannounced**, as this can seriously impact the quality of programming for all students and pose a security risk for Science Adventure School. Also note that the person picking up the child must be identified on the participant information forms. We will never release a student to a guardian who has not been previously established in writing.

Additionally, we understand that for many, SAS is the guardians' first time being away from their children for this long too! Know that you are not alone in missing your student, and for many guardians, this is a hard week for you as well.

### Pick Up Procedure

If you are picking up a student from the Summit, the early departure must be approved and coordinated by a Science Adventure School director or coordinator. Please do not arrive at the summit without first speaking with a Science Adventure School coordinator or director and planning a set pick time. Authorized guardians may pick up students during the hours of 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. You may not pick up your child outside of this window because of security and safety risks associated with vehicles at camp at night. If your student requires early pick up please bring your drivers license or a government issued ID. Only people who have been authorized by a parent or legal guardian in writing on the pickup form you received with your paperwork packet will be allowed to pick up a child. No exceptions. Once you arrive Science Adventure School staff will bring your student and all their belongings to meet you.

## Risk Management

### Outside Food and Drinks

At Science Adventure School we eat three delicious meals and 1-2 snacks per day! Due to allergies and to avoid risk of attracting animals to camp, outside snacks and drinks are not permitted. If your student has a restricted diet due to medical needs please make note of that on their medical form and the Science Adventure School Staff will make appropriate accommodations and be in contact with you about these.



## Success Practices and Procedures

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### Onsite Security

All adults who will interact with your child have passed extensive background checks, completed WVU Child Protection training, and have the BSA Safe From Harm certificate.

Access to Science Adventure School is restricted, and only SAS staff members and instructors, supporting nursing and medical team members, and authorized personnel may receive clearance to enter and exit the location. **If a parent needs access to the site to pick up a child for any reason, you will need to bring photo ID and will be escorted by a team member if brought on site.**

### Cell Phones and Contacting Your Child

You will be able to contact your child periodically throughout camp on their personal mobile phone or ours. Please be advised that your child will not be readily available during active adventure sports activities or hands-on teaching sessions.

Our staff will collect and secure students' phones during the day so that they can be fully immersed in the SAS experience. Students will only be allowed to access their cellphones during their evening free time. During all other times students' cell phones will be locked up and securely stored. If a student has a personal or medical emergency they will have access to a coordinator or director's phone to contact a parent. Coordinators carry students' emergency contact information with them at all times.

If you need to contact your child at any point during their stay because of an emergency, you can contact our emergency-only on-call phone which you dial by calling our office number and selecting option 2. If you have general questions, comments, concerns, or other things you would like to discuss, we would love to hear from you via email at [SAS@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:SAS@mail.wvu.edu) or our main line **304-293-7190**. We stress that the on-call line is used for emergencies only.

## Behavior and Commitment

### Challenge by Choice

We understand that your child may not choose to participate in every activity or lesson we offer. That's alright with us!

Your child will never be forced to do something that they find scary or too uncomfortable. We will encourage all our students to step out of their comfort zone and try new things that they may have limited experience with. However, we respect your child's individuality and choice not to participate in certain activities. Students who choose not to participate will be given a different activity or be put in an "encourager" role so that they will be able to participate in a more comfortable role.

## Success Practices and Procedures

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### Behavior

Although the outdoor and experiential education environment often curtail typical behavior problems, we understand there may be issues that arise that are beyond our control.

If a child is having a behavior issue that SAS staff or a teacher cannot work through with the child or that causes a safety concern to self or others, we will remove the child from the environment. Our first action is to discuss what may have caused the behavior and what the child may need to resume the activity. If the child does not want to continue or does not follow through with improved behavior, the parent will be responsible for retrieving their child.

# Science Adventure School Packing List

Science Adventure School has a limited amount of equipment which can be borrowed. If you do not have an item on this list please do not let that stop your student from joining us. If you need to borrow an item please let us know as soon as possible by emailing SAS@mail.wvu.edu or call (304)293-7190.

## Packing tips and tricks

### Think Layers

Even in the peak spring/summer months mornings and evenings can be chilly. It's common for the day to start out in the 50's - 60's and then heat up to 70- 80 degrees.

### Rain Happens in West Virginia

Being a West Virginian it should be no surprise that we can expect rain at anytime. Your students can prepare by bringing an extra pair of shoes, rain jacket, and synthetic clothing.

### Limit Cotton Clothing

Cotton will not keep your student warm if it gets wet. Synthetic materials will come in handy as they are moisture-wicking and help dry sweat faster.

### Do Not Pack Valuables

Things can get lost or damaged while in the outdoors. Old T-shirts, sweatshirts, and shorts/pants are quite the style at camp!

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, synthetic leggings)
	Gloves
	2 Pairs closed toe shoes
	4-5 pairs socks, non-cotton if possible

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

**Suggested optional items:**

**Tampons**

**Etc.**

**\*Sas will also have these items avail**

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/back-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)