

SCIENCE ADVENTURE SCHOOL



ECONOMIC IMPACT GOALS

Science Adventure School is an early education workforce development program targeted at a crucial developmental age. Our curriculum is designed to have a positive effect on the West Virginia economy in multiple ways:

- Increase STEM degree graduation rates of West Virginia youth. Research shows that 6th grade is the last opportunity to change students' belief that they can do science and math.
- Increase college retention rates through curriculum designed to link education to enjoyment and increase curiosity and academic engagement.
- Teach in-demand "soft skills" for the modern workplace.
- Increase youth's pride in being from WV with the goal of reducing brain drain.
- Provide behaviorally or academically challenged students with community support and resources to increase the likelihood that they will be successful in school.

WE'RE BACKED BY RESEARCH

The Oregon Outdoor School has conducted a literature review of academic, empirical studies associated with program outcomes of outdoor schools similar to SAS and found that these programs had a positive effect on:

- General Academic Achievement
- Math and Science Achievement
- Language Arts Achievement
- Critical Thinking
- Graduation Rates
- College Enrollment
- Classroom Engagement and Motivation
- Social Skills
- Teamwork
- Independence
- Conflict Resolution
- Knowledge and Awareness of Careers in Natural Resources

*Full study available on our website and upon request.

WE'RE MOVING WV FORWARD

We're developing our state's human capital. SAS meets a statewide need by providing an early piece of the workforce development pipeline. By working with students at an early age, we give them a foundation for further high school and college readiness programs. SAS provides a critical service to help build the state's talent pool and build students' pride in the state to assist in retaining them.



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West Virginia University

BRAD AND ALYS SMITH OUTDOOR ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATIVE

WE'RE ANSWERING THE CALL TO BUILD A STRONGER WV

We've aligned our program to meet the goals of these workforce development organizations:

- WV Workforce Alliance
- The Education Alliance - WV Ready Graduates
- WV Forward
- WV Dept. of Commerce
- WV Public Education Collaborative
- Generation WV



TANGIBLE IMPACTS ON WV ECONOMY

The SAS program will have tangible, significant impact on the state economy. Based on a report completed by the WVU Bureau of Business and Economic Research, potential program impacts from increasing high school and college graduation rates will include increased tax revenue to the state through higher employment rates and job attainment of work-ready employees.

For example, in the fall of 2024, SAS will serve 1,500 students. Considering a conservative 5% increase in high school graduation and college-going rates as a result, the 2024 year's cohort will:

- Return \$3.5M to the state of WV annually (\$140M over 40 years)
- Create 12 jobs per year (223 over 40 years)
- Return \$35 to state economy per year for each \$1 invested in the program

Our ultimate goal is to serve every 6th grade student in WV annually (approximately 19,500 kids per cohort). At scale, the career-long economic impact of one cohort will be over \$1.4 billion, 1500 jobs, and a \$127 return on \$1 investment.

*Full study available upon request.

SAS TEACHES WORK READINESS SKILLS

- Communication
- Problem-Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Independence
- Teamwork
- Empathy
- Self-Management
- Conflict Resolution
- Active Listening
- Time Management
- Adaptability
- Resilience
- Perseverance



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Educational attainment alone appears to explain less than half the intergenerational transmission of earnings. Instead, non-cognitive skills such as work ethic, the ability to follow instructions, motivation, and patience may be just as important as cognitive skills. A consensus now exists among child-development experts that the foundation for acquiring these skills is laid very early in life, even from infancy."

- Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond: "Land of Opportunity? Economic Mobility in the United States