Frequently Asked Questions

Each year the Governor’s Office of Appalachia and the Appalachian Regional Commission send two middle school and two high school students as well as two high school teachers to the Appalachian Regional Commission – Oak Ridge National Laboratory Summer Math-Science-Technology Institute and Summer Science Academy in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

The FREE program provides Ohio Appalachian students the opportunity to work with scientists from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory on real-world science projects.

When does the Summer Institute take place?
July 8-21, 2017 for high school students and teachers, July 16-21, 2017 for middle school students.

Who is eligible to apply?
All participants must attend a public school in one of Ohio’s 32 Appalachian counties, and be U.S. citizens.
- Middle school participants must be between 12 and 14 years old on July 16, 2017.
- High school participants must be at least 16 years old by July 8, 2017.
- All teacher participants must plan to teach math, science, and/or technology (e.g. Web design, computer programming) in the ninth grade or higher in a public school in a designated Appalachian county for the 2017-2018 school year.

When are applications due?
All application materials must be submitted to the Governor’s Office of Appalachia on or before March 10, 2017. Application materials received or postmarked after this date or submitted electronically will not be considered.

Where do I send my application?
Applications should be mailed or delivered to:
Ohio Development Services Agency
Governor’s Office of Appalachia
c/o Oak Ridge Summer Institute
77 South High Street, 26th Floor
Columbus, Ohio, 43215

Please make sure you are available to attend the summer institute during the designated dates before submitting your application. The criteria for selection are available at www.development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_goa_oak.htm. For an application to be considered it must be complete and meet the mandatory requirements along with the requirements in the “other considerations” criteria.
How do I know if my school is located in an Ohio Appalachian county?
Appalachian Ohio is a 32-county region that spans eastern, southeastern, and southern Ohio. For a complete list of the Appalachian counties in Ohio, visit www.arc.gov/counties.

What do participants do at the Institute?
Middle school participants will tour Oak Ridge National Laboratory research facilities, use a variety of technologies to solve problems in Oak Ridge Associated Universities learning center, and participate in field trips to nearby industries, universities, and museums.

High school student and teacher participants will spend most days in one of several Oak Ridge National Laboratory research laboratories, but they will also participate in field trips to nearby industries, universities, and museums.

For examples of research projects from previous summer institutes, visit www.arc.gov/summerSTEM.

Where does the Institute take place?
The Institute will be held at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Where do participants stay during the Institute?
Participants will stay at a hotel in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, near Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Oak Ridge Associated Universities facilities. Student participants will be chaperoned 24 hours a day by experienced teachers. Teacher participants will not be asked to chaperone.

Do participants have to be from the same school district?
Middle school students from the same school will be given priority in the selection process. High school student and teacher participants may be selected from different schools or school districts.

How much does it cost to attend the Institute?
All major expenses, including meals, lodging, transportation to and from the participant’s home, and local transportation, will be covered for all participants. Teacher participants will receive a stipend.

Where can I find more information?
For more information about the program, visit www.development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_goa_oak.htm or contact:

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