

Arkansas Governor's School Nomination Packet

The following includes instructions and information for schools submit student nominees for Arkansas Governor's School. All forms can be filled out online. However, they may be printed and submitted through the mail **OR** they may each be scanned and uploaded to the drop box as suggested below. The following items must be submitted together, postmarked by **Thursday, January 31, 2019**:

1. For each school: One copy of **Composite Nomination Information Form**
(This form does not need to be completed for homeschooled students).
2. For each student:
 - a. **Student General Information Form** (4 pages).
 - b. **Area I Application Form** for each area in which the student is applying (up to 2).
 - c. **Teacher Recommendation Form** for each area in which student is applying (up to 2).
 - d. **School Recommendation Form** with transcript attached.
 - e. All applications in **DRAMA, CHORAL MUSIC, INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC, and VISUAL ARTS** must include a **recorded audition**. (Instructions for preparing the auditions are included in this packet.) **PLEASE NOTE** that a school official must sign off on each student's application verifying that they have previewed the student's recorded audition to check for clarity and **appropriateness of material**.
 - f. In regards to options C and D, if a student is homeschooled, the **parent** can complete the recommendation forms.

Option 1: Please clip all materials together (do not staple) and mail them to:

State Student Selection Committee
Arkansas Governor's School Office
Arkansas Tech University
1701 N. Boulder Ave
Russellville, AR 72801

Option 2: Scan each document and upload them to: <http://www.atu.edu/ags>

(Look for the Student Packet Upload button)

STUDENT PACKET UPLOAD

Check to make sure that all forms have been properly completed and have proper signatures. All forms may be duplicated as needed.

ARKANSAS GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL GENERAL INFORMATION

The Arkansas Governor's School (AGS) is a four-week summer residential program for rising high school seniors. The school is operated by the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) through a grant to Arkansas Tech University and is supervised by the ADE Office of Gifted and Talented Education. **The fortieth annual Governor's School will be conducted for approximately 400 students from July 7 through August 3, 2019, on the campus of Arkansas Tech University in Russellville.**

Students who attend the School must be nominated by their local high schools and selected by the State Student Selection Committee designated by the Department of Education. The committee works to ensure that every area of the state is represented. The program is designed to give gifted students the opportunity to develop and expand their powers to conceptualize, to theorize, and to explore the latest progress and problems of various academic and artistic fields. The curriculum is designed to focus on contemporary topics and issues and to encourage curiosity and a spirit of inquiry.

Tuition, room, board, books, and instructional supplies are furnished for students from funds appropriated by the Arkansas General Assembly. Students are responsible for travel to and from Russellville and for any personal expenses.

ELIGIBILITY:

- 1) Only students who are residents of Arkansas and who are presently in junior classes at public or private high schools or who are home schooled are eligible for nomination and selection.
- 2) Nominees should have demonstrated: a) **creativity** in academic or creative fields, b) **above average ability** in the area(s) of nomination, c) the **high degrees of self-motivation** required to satisfy the program's demanding requirements, d) the **intellectual, social, and emotional maturity** required to thrive in an environment that emphasizes theoretical and process-related learning.
- 3) **Nominees must be willing to commit to the entire program.** Students who would like to participate in other programs or activities that run concurrent to AGS should *not* be nominated.
- 4) All qualified students should be considered for nomination regardless of socio-economic status, cultural or language differences.

PLAN FOR LOCAL SCHOOL NOMINATION

Step 1:

Announce that nominations for Arkansas Governor's School are now being accepted. This could take place in a junior class meeting or through the distribution of information through classes. Schools may need to encourage qualified students to apply. Some communities have found it helpful to seek the assistance of local churches and community groups in encouraging underrepresented students to apply.

Step 2:

Compile a list of nominees collected from the following:

1. A list compiled by counselors of students who meet the standardized test data as described in this packet;
2. Nominations by teachers;
3. Nominations from parents who believe their child is qualified and interested; and
4. Nominations from students who believe that they are qualified.

Step 3:

Convene a screening committee. The Department of Education encourages schools to establish a local screening committee, composed of at least three members, including a counselor and a person trained in the area of gifted and talented education. The committee should use the criteria listed in this packet for selecting applicants. We strongly urge that the student complete the Student

General Information Form and make it available for the committee's use. Please bear in mind that traits other than academic success have been found to be important qualifications for the Arkansas Governor's School.

Step 4:

Prepare a list for State nomination not to exceed ten percent of the total enrollment of the school's junior class. **Schools with fewer than 50 junior class students may nominate a maximum of five students.** Only students who meet the qualifications should be nominated.

It is imperative that personnel conduct a thorough search to seek out those students with outstanding ability or potential. To accomplish equitable demographic representation at the Arkansas Governor's School, local school personnel should see that the number of nominations submitted to the State Student Selection Committee reflects the school population.

Step 5:

Notify students that they are or are not being nominated by the district to the State Student Selection Committee.

Step 6:

Complete all forms as directed on the instruction page of this packet and mail to the State Student Selection Committee.

ARKANSAS GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Each high school may submit names of up to ten percent of the junior class population to the State Student Selection Committee for its consideration. In planning for local school nomination, the district's packet must include the following:

1. **Composite Nomination Information Form.**

This form should list in alphabetical order each student nominated by the school and the area(s) in which he/she is applying. School districts with more than one high school must submit one composite form per school. Complete the form and have it signed by the superintendent or the high school principal. Keep a copy and mail the original, **along with the nominations**, to the State Student Selection Committee. Students who are selected to attend will be notified by email in mid-April. Shortly before they are notified, the superintendent or principal listed on this sheet will receive information about the selection status of each nominee from the school.

2. For each nominated student, submit the following:

- a. **Student General Information Form** (3 pages) - Form is to be completed by the student, no attachments are allowed. Student and parent must sign the agreement on page three of the form.
- b. **Area I Application Forms** - One form is required for each area in which the student is applying. (A student may apply for up to two areas.)
- c. **Teacher Recommendation Forms** – Recommendation for each student should be made by a teacher who is familiar with the student's interest and ability in the specific subject area. One recommendation form should be submitted for each area that the student is applying.
- d. **School Recommendation Forms** (4 pages) - School personnel should complete *all four pages*. Formal test data should not be more than two years old. Submit as many scores as available. It is recommended that nominated students score at the 90th percentile or above on at least one of the measures. However, there are students who exhibit evidence of giftedness whose test scores do not meet the recommended level for nomination. Schools are encouraged to nominate these students and give supporting information and rationale for inclusion.
- e. **Student Transcript** - A current legible transcript must be attached as Item 4 to the School Recommendation Form.
- f. **Each Nomination in the VISUAL OR PERFORMING ARTS must be accompanied by an audition uploaded privately to YouTube or in DVD-R or DVD+R format. The enclosed packet contains instructions for preparing the auditions. It is important to provide these instructions to students applying in the arts areas. Nominations in the arts areas that are not accompanied by a properly prepared video audition will not be considered in the arts area. A school official must preview each student's audition and sign off on the School Recommendation Form verifying that the audition has been viewed for clarity and appropriateness of material.**

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

1. **Only students interested and able to participate for the full four weeks should be nominated. AGS runs at the same time as many other valuable summer programs. Students who would prefer to participate in those programs should not be nominated.**
2. Each nomination must include all of the required forms. Each form should be fully completed – including all required signatures. **Forms must be typed.** Information at the top of all forms must be consistent. **Photocopies must be legible.** Incomplete applications are unacceptable.
3. A confirmation email will be sent upon receipt of application.
4. Mail the composite form, nomination forms, and auditions (if applicable) in one package to:

**State Student Selection Committee
Arkansas Governor's School Office
Arkansas Tech University
1701 N. Boulder Ave.
Russellville, AR 72801**

OR

Option 2: Scan each document and upload them to: <http://www.atu.edu/ags>

(Look for the Student Packet Upload button)

STUDENT PACKET UPLOAD

All nomination packages must be postmarked by Thursday, January 31, 2019.

If additional information is needed, please contact the ADE Office of Gifted and Talented Education at (501) 682-4224.