



SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSIONER'S SCHOOL FOR AGRICULTURE

A partnership of:

South Carolina Department of Agriculture &
Clemson University's College of Agriculture, Forestry & Life Sciences

2009 APPLICATION FORM

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SCCSA INFORMATION

Address:	F153 Poole Agricultural Building, Clemson, SC 29634	
Phone:	(888) 472-5433 (tollfree)	(864) 656-6662
Website:	http://www.clemson.edu/cafls/sccsa.html	
Email:	sccsa-1@clemson.edu	

PROGRAM DETAILS FOR 2009

Dates: July 18th – 24th, 2009

The South Carolina Commissioner's School for Agriculture (SCCSA) provides challenging and enriching college-based experiences for a limited number of rising 11th and 12th grade students. Each college-based program provides an academically focused curriculum that integrates subject matter from a variety of related disciplines with the overall theme of agriculture and natural resources.

MISSION

SCCSA is a premiere career and leadership development summer program. This program is designed to inform, inspire and challenge student participants to consider a career in the agricultural, natural resource and life science industries, and to be model citizens of leadership and influence for these industries as they embrace an agriculturalist philosophy.

Academic Programs May Include:

- Animal & Veterinary Sciences
- Forestry, Wildlife & Environmental Sciences
- Horticulture, Turfgrass & Soil Science

Additional Programming May Include:

- AgriBusiness & Policy
- Alternative Fuels
- Organic Food Production
- Clemson Admissions & Financial Aid

South Carolina Commissioner's School for Agriculture

ELIGIBILITY

No exceptions are made to these requirements

- Currently a high school student in 10th or 11th grade. Must be on track to enter 11th or 12th grade.
- Home schooled students are eligible.
- Genuine interest in pursuing a college degree related to agriculture and natural resources.
- Must not have previously attended the South Carolina Commissioner's School for Agriculture.
- Must submit a completed application form and all related materials by the deadlines.

COST

A non-refundable registration fee of \$50 is required upon acceptance. This deposit is credited toward total tuition costs. Please do not send this money with the application.

South Carolina residents \$375

Out-of-State residents \$600

Through private funding and donations, the cost to South Carolina students has been kept to a minimum. Each student must provide his or her own spending money as well as transportation to and from Clemson University. In the event a student cannot afford these expenses, we encourage students to find local sponsors who can assist them. All program participants are housed on the Clemson campus and all meals are provided.

APPLICATION DEADLINE AND NOTIFICATION

Postmark Deadline

Completed applications are due postmarked by May 1st, 2009 or earlier. The application must be completed and all components must be received, according to the enclosed directions and mailed by the applicant. Applications must be postmarked by May 1st, 2009 and received no later than May 8th, 2009 at 4:00pm to be considered. Applications received with a postmark later than May 1st, 2009 or received in the office after May 8th, 2009 will be immediately disqualified for lateness.

WARNING → Certified, registered or first-class mail is subject to delays. If waiting until the deadline to submit, please ensure prompt delivery.

Notification

Applications are reviewed by a selection committee. Approximately 30 students will be chosen to participate and emphasis is placed on students who desire to pursue studies or a career in the agriculture and natural resource industries. Once the selection process is complete, the student can expect to receive a letter announcing the decision in June.

The South Carolina Commissioner's School for Agriculture is not responsible for lost, incomplete or delayed applications, or for those sent to incorrect addresses. The program committee cannot respond to requests for advance notification, individual assessments or appeals.

This application form expires May 1st, 2009 and may not be submitted after that date.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

FORMS TO COMPLETE & RETURN	<i>Pages</i>
1. Personal Data Forms	4-5
2. Parent/Guardian Form	6
3. Workshop Ranking	7
4. Essays	8
5. Guidance Counselor Review & Transcript	9-10
6. Science Teacher Recommendation	11-12
7. Community Leader Recommendation	13-14

REVIEW all forms before proceeding with the application process.

READ instructions on each form carefully.

COMPLETE the information lines at the top of the reference forms before releasing to references.

GATHER all completed reference forms in sealed envelopes.

MAIL completed applications before May 1st deadline.

SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATION TO

South Carolina Commissioner's School for Agriculture
Clemson University
F153 Poole Agricultural Center
Clemson, SC 29634-0306

PERSONAL DATA FORM

PART I: Applicant Information

Name of Applicant

Last First M.I. Preferred

Male Female

Address

PO Box, Street Number, Route

City State Zip

Home (area code + number) e-mail Address

County Local Newspaper

Students Date of Birth

Shirt Size XS S M L XL XXL XXXL

How do you identify yourself? *Information is confidential and used for statistical accounting and qualifier for scholarship opportunity.*

- African American Asian Bi-Racial/Mixed Race Caucasian/White
- Hispanic/Latino Indian Native American Other _____
- Choose not to answer

PART II: School Information

I attend: (check one) Public School Private School Home School

School District

Name of School District in which student resides

School

School student attends

School Address

PO Box, Street Number, Route

City State Zip

Expected Grad Year _____

Please check courses below that you have completed or are currently enrolled:

- Agriculture AP Environmental Calculus Algebra I
- Biology Chemistry Pre-Calculus Algebra II
- AP Biology AP Chemistry Geometry Other related: _____
- Environmental Sc. Physics Trigonometry _____

PERSONAL DATA FORM - 2

This section can be replaced or supplemented by a resume

ACTIVITIES: *(Can include athletic, academic, social and community)*

HONORS AND AWARDS:

EMPLOYMENT & VOLUNTEER WORK:

How did you learn about the South Carolina Commissioner's School for Agriculture?

- Counselor/Teacher
- Previous Attendee
- Magazine or Newspaper
- Website
- Other _____

APPLICANT'S STATEMENT AND SIGNATURE:

I certify that to the best of my knowledge all of the information I have provided is accurate and that the work submitted is my own. I acknowledge that information about my selection, photos and projects may be shared with the public. I also understand that it is my responsibility to return this form and the required attachments.

Applicant Signature

Date

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S STATEMENT AND SIGNATURE:

I have reviewed the information on this form and give my permission for my child to proceed with the application procedures. I authorize my child's school and its employees to release any information necessary about this applicant. Furthermore, I recognize that it is my child's responsibility to ensure that the complete application is filed in accordance with the stated deadline. I am aware that the South Carolina Commissioner's School for Agriculture cannot respond to requests for individual assessments or appeals.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

PARENT/GUARDIAN FORM

Parent/Guardian

Last First M.I.

Address

PO Box, Street Number, Route

City State Zip

Phone

Home (area code + number) Alternative Contact Number

Employment Info

Occupation

Emergency Contact Information:

Name

Last First M.I.

Address

PO Box, Street Number, Route

City State Zip

Phone

Home (area code + number) Alternative Contact Number

Health, Allergies, Disabilities, Dietary Restrictions:

Please provide any information the SCCSA staff should know about the applicant's health, allergies, disabilities, dietary restrictions or related. *If applicant is selected, further documentation may need to be submitted.*

Special Needs:

Please provide any information about any special needs that the SCCSA staff should be aware of. *If applicant is selected, further documentation may be needed.*

The South Carolina Commissioner's School for Agriculture is an intense living-learning experience for all participants. Participants should be able to handle the rigor and demands of the program academically, physically and emotionally. Any concerns by either participants or parent/guardians of the participant's abilities to fulfill this statement should be discussed with the Program Director by calling (864) 656-6662.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM RANKING

The SCCSA planning committee will seek to accommodate students in their chosen academic field. To help us place you in the appropriate track and to create new programming, please rank the following areas relative to your interests.

Number your ranking 1 – 3 using each number ONLY ONCE using “1” as your first choice and “3” as your last choice. Please review the example ranking before completing your own.

EXAMPLE RANKING

- 3 Animal & Veterinary Sciences
- 1 Forestry, Wildlife & Environmental Sciences
- 2 Horticulture, Turfgrass & Soil Science

YOUR RANKING

- Animal & Veterinary Sciences
- Forestry, Wildlife & Environmental Sciences
- Horticulture, Turfgrass & Soil Science

Applicant's Full Name

PERSONAL ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants should respond to both Essay 1 and Essay 2. These responses should be typed/word-processed, in an easy to read 12-point font. The details required of each essay are stated below and should employ the applicants best written skills.

Essay 1

Introduce yourself to the selection committee by explaining in one paragraph (no more than 200 words) why you wish to participate in the South Carolina Commissioner's School for Agriculture. This statement can incorporate your background, experiences, interests or goals and how those qualify you for selection to this program.

Essay 2

Discuss a current issue in agriculture or natural resources that is of specific interest to you. This issue can be a positive or negative issue related to these industries. It is important to state more than just facts and to incorporate your related ideas, solutions, concerns, or other thoughts. This statement should be clear and concise and must not exceed two typed pages.

Essay Review

Essays will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- 1 – Technical Content (spelling, grammar, sentence structure)
- 2 – Content
- 3 – Creativity

*For more information - www.clemson.edu/cafls/sccsa
For any questions, contact - (864)656-6662*

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR REVIEW & RECOMMENDATION

Review & Recommendation Guidelines:

1. Who may complete this form: High School Guidance Counselor Only
Home school students should use association representative or seek advice for special situations.
2. Please complete this form and return it immediately to the student in a sealed and signed envelope.
Application materials are due May 1, 2009.
3. The application will be disqualified if it is late or incomplete. This form expires May 1, 2009.

For information, contact (864)656-6662 or sccsa-l@clemson.edu

Applicant's Name: _____

High School: _____

Counselor Name: _____

Date: _____

PART I: Transcript

Attach the applicant's official transcript and current report card to this form.

PART II: Attendance Record

Number of absences in the last full academic year: _____

IMPORTANT: If the number exceeds 10, please state reason(s) and whether the number has remained high this academic year.

Number of tardies in the last full academic year: _____

IMPORTANT: If the number exceeds 5, please state reason(s) and whether the number has remained high this academic year.

PART III: Academic Scores and Standing

Complete the following information as thoroughly as possible, even if it appears on the transcript. Please report actual scores and not percentiles. It is not a required that the student have completed any standardized tests to attend the program. However, if there are no standardized test scores to report please explain reasoning.

Class Rank _____ Class Size _____ Grade Point Average _____ Scale _____

Test Scores: PSAT: Verbal/Critical Reading _____ Writing _____ Math _____ Date _____

SAT: Verbal/Critical Reading _____ Writing _____ Math _____ Date _____

ACT: Composite Score _____ Date _____

Part IV: Counselor Recommendation

Please check one selection below to indicate your recommendation of this applicant for an intense academic summer program at Clemson University

- Highly Recommend
- Recommend

- Recommend with Reservations
- Not Recommended

South Carolina Commissioner’s School for Agriculture

Part V: Counselor Statement

Please write a statement about this applicant’s strengths and weaknesses, explaining why you rated the applicant as you did in Part IV. Please cite examples of outstanding contributions, achievements challenges or concerns. Your response is important and will assist the selection committee in understanding the applicants. *You may use the space below or include an additional letter.*

Please check here if you are attaching a letter.

Part VI: Counselor Signature

- *The information I have provided is complete and correct.*
- *I have read the Recommendation & Review Guidelines and the Program Background.*
- *I understand that the applicant can be disqualified on the basis of grade level ineligibility, previous SCCSA participation, plagiarism or falsification of information.*

Signature and Date: _____

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

It is important that all persons giving reference understand the purpose and goals of the program. Please ensure that you give the highest recommendations only to students who you feel will excel in and benefit from such a program.

The SC Commissioner’s School for Agriculture (SCCSA) provides challenging and enriching college-based experiences for a limited number of rising 11th and 12th grade students. Each college-based program provides an academically focused curriculum that integrates subject matter from a variety of related disciplines with the overall theme of agriculture and natural resources. The goal of the program is to nurture participant’s interest to therefore encourage higher education and career opportunities in the agricultural and natural resources.

Furthermore, the South Carolina Commissioner’s School for Agriculture is an intense living-learning experience for all participants. Participants should be able to handle the rigor and demands of the program academically, physically and emotionally. Any concerns of the applicant’s abilities to perform should be addressed in the recommendation.

For more information - www.clemson.edu/cafls/sccsa

For any questions, contact - (864)656-6662

SCIENCE TEACHER RECOMMENDATION FORM

Recommendation Guidelines:

1. Who may complete this form: A teacher in any subject considered "science" that has had the applicant in a class or as an advisee. Preference is given to Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Environmental Sciences. The choice of reference is the applicant's. The applicant need not be studying with the reference at present; however, the student should be careful to choose someone who can best and most completely answer all questions. *Parents or legal guardians may not complete forms for their children. Home schooled students should call for advice on references.*
2. Please complete this form and return it immediately to the student in a sealed and signed envelope. Application materials are due May 1, 2009.
3. The application will be disqualified if it is late or incomplete. This form expires May 1, 2009.

Applicant's Name: _____

High School: _____

Reference Name: _____

Subject: _____

PART I:

For each item below, please assess the applicant by assigning one of the following values:

A=Exceptional B=Above Average C=Average D=Below Average E=No opportunity to observe

___ Initiative and independence

___ Written communication skills

___ Oral comprehension

___ Interaction with others

___ Team Player

___ Maturity

___ Attitude

___ Enthusiasm towards learning

___ Other: _____

PART II:

How does the applicant compare overall academic promise with other students with whom you have had contact in the last three years? Please check one statement below:

Among the very best I have known

Very good, but not the very best

Average

Below Average

PART III:

Please check one selection below to indicate your recommendation for the applicant for the South Carolina Commissioner's School for Agriculture.

Highly Recommend

Recommend

Recommend with reservations

Not Recommended

South Carolina Commissioner’s School for Agriculture

PART IV:

Please write a statement about this applicant’s strengths and weaknesses, explaining why you rated the applicant as you did in Parts I, II and III. Please cite examples of outstanding contributions, achievements challenges or concerns. Your response is important and will assist the selection committee in understanding the applicants. *You may use the space below or include an additional letter.*

Please check here if you are attaching a letter

Part V: Science Teacher Signature

- *The information I have provided is complete and correct.*
- *I have read the Recommendation Guidelines and Program Background.*
- *I understand that the applicant can be disqualified on the basis of grade level ineligibility, previous SCCSA participation, plagiarism or falsification of information.*

Signature and Date: _____

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

It is important that all persons giving reference understand the purpose and goals of the program. Please ensure that you give the highest recommendations only to students who you feel will excel in and benefit from such a program.

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For any questions, contact - (864)656-6662

COMMUNITY LEADER RECOMMENDATION FORM

Recommendation Guidelines:

1. Who may complete this form: Any representative from the community who knows the applicant and can comment on their character and abilities. Past examples include: industry representative, employer, mayor, fire chief, pastor, troop leader, 4-H advisor, FFA advisor, district commissioner, etc. The choice of reference is the applicant's. The applicant need not be studying with the reference at present; however, the student should be careful to choose someone who can best and most completely answer all questions.
2. Please complete this form and return it immediately to the student in a sealed and signed envelope. Application materials are due May 1, 2009.
3. The application will be disqualified if it is late or incomplete. This form expires May 1, 2009.

For information, contact (864)656-6662 or sccsa-l@clemson.edu

Applicant's Name: _____

Title: _____

Reference Name: _____

Organization: _____

PART I:

For each item below, please assess the applicant by assigning one of the following values:

A=Exceptional B=Above Average C=Average D=Below Average E=No opportunity to observe

___ Initiative and independence

___ Written communication skills

___ Oral comprehension

___ Interaction with others

___ Team Player

___ Maturity

___ Attitude

___ Enthusiasm towards learning

___ Other: _____

PART II:

How does the applicant compare in overall promise with other students with whom you have had contact in the last three years? Please check one statement below:

Among the very best I have known

Very good, but not the very best

Average

Below Average

PART III:

Please check one selection below to indicate your recommendation for the applicant for the SC Commissioner's School for Agriculture.

Highly Recommend Recommend Recommend with reservations Not Recommended

South Carolina Commissioner's School for Agriculture

PART IV:

Please write a statement about this applicant's strengths and weaknesses, explaining why you rated the applicant as you did in Parts I, II and III. Please cite examples of outstanding contributions, achievements challenges or concerns. Your response is important and will assist the selection committee in understanding the applicants. *You may use the space below or include an additional letter.*

Please check here if you are attaching a letter.

Part V: Community Leader Signature

- *The information I have provided is complete and correct.*
- *I have read the Recommendation Guidelines and Program Background.*
- *I understand that the applicant can be disqualified on the basis of grade level ineligibility, previous SCCSA participation, plagiarism or falsification of information.*

Signature and Date: _____

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

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