



# **SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSIONER'S SCHOOL FOR AGRICULTURE**

A partnership of:

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

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## **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:	<a href="http://www.clemson.edu/cafls/sccsa.html">http://www.clemson.edu/cafls/sccsa.html</a>	
Email:	sccsa-1@clemson.edu	

### **PROGRAM DETAILS FOR 2009**

**Dates: July 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Must be on track to enter 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 and received no later than May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 4:00pm to be considered. Applications received with a postmark later than May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 or received in the office after May 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 and may not be submitted after that date.*

**APPLICATION INFORMATION**

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<b>FORMS TO COMPLETE &amp; RETURN</b>	<i>Pages</i>
1. Personal Data Forms	4-5
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**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

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*This section can be replaced or supplemented by a resume*

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

HONORS AND AWARDS:

EMPLOYMENT & VOLUNTEER WORK:

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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**

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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**

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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

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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](http://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](http://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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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](http://www.clemson.edu/cafls/sccsa)*

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