SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSIONER'S SCHOOL FOR AGRICULTURE

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

GENERAL INFORMATION
2021 APPLICATION AND PROGRAM

CONTENTS

SCCSA INFORMATION

Address: F153 Poole Agricultural Building, Clemson, SC 29634
Phone: (864) 656-1534
Website: *https://www.clemson.edu/cafls/sccsa/*
Email: sccsa-l@clemson.edu

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 as well as to be model citizens of leadership and influence for these industries as they embrace an agriculturalist philosophy.

Academic Programs May Include:
· Livestock and Animal Production
· Forestry & Natural Resources
· Plant Sciences

Additional Programming May Include:
· Agribusiness & Policy
· Agricultural Education
· Clemson Admissions & Financial Aid

COVID-19 Contingency Plans
 Please read the following information carefully and mark your response below.

New/updated policies related to COVID-19 for Clemson University on-campus summer programming have not been finalized at this point, but we are continuing to monitor those plans and will keep applicants as up-to-date as possible through email. As for now, we are moving towards having our usual full week, on-campus program as we have in the past however, we are also planning for potential modifications to the in-person programming because of COVID-19 and also a virtual option if policies dictate that there will be no or limited in-person summer programs conducted on campus. A decision will be made in a timely manner as to which mode of delivery will be used, in-person, modified in-person or virtual. Program planners are working to create a meaningful and engaging summer program for all interested participants.

Cost adjustments could occur with any of these scenarios. Virtual programming would most likely have a cost reduction and in-person programming could have a cost increase due to single room occupancy versus double room occupancy (whether policy driven or personal preference.)

Taking into account all of these considerations AND if you are accepted into the program, would you be interested in:

_____ In-person Only _____Virtual Only _____Willing to participate either in-person or virtually.

PROGRAM DETAILS
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.

DATE: Full week in-person, on-campus July 24th – 30th, 2021
If mode of delivery changes to virtual, sessions will still be conducted during this week and would be condensed to one or two days.

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.

TUITION COSTS – This pricing is for in-person double occupancy. Please note COVID-19 accommodations and/or virtual programming could affect the costs of the program. Chosen participants will receive final cost information before committing to the program.

    Tuition: South Carolina residents $425   Out-of-State residents $700

A non-refundable tuition deposit of $50 is required UPON ACCEPTANCE. This deposit is credited toward total tuition costs. Please do not send money with this application.

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. All program participants are housed on the Clemson campus and all meals are provided. In

the event a student cannot afford these expenses, we encourage students to find local sponsors. Applicants can also submit a letter to the program director requesting funding assistance.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES
Postmark Deadline
Completed applications are due electronically or postmarked/timestamped by **April 16th, 2021** or earlier. The application must be complete and all components must be received, according to the enclosed directions. Applications can be submitted through email or through regular US Postal Service mail, but must be timestamped or postmarked by **April 16th, 2021,** then received by our office no later than April 23rd, 2021 at 4:00pm to be considered. Applications received with a postmark or timestamp later than **April 16th, 2021** will be immediately disqualified.

All components of application must be received by April 23rd for an application to be complete. Please allow your recommenders ample time to complete requirements.

Submitting Application
The applicant should complete applications in entirety and the work submitted should be your own. Applications and related materials can be emailed or submitted online. Related addresses are listed under General Information.

Notification
A selection committee reviews applications and approximately 35-40 students will be chosen to participate with an emphasis 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 by June.

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

Once submitted, the contents of this application become property of the SCCSA program and its affiliates. Submissions may be duplicated and replicated at the discretion of the SCCSA Program Director.   Applicant gives permissions for multimedia submissions to be used in future advertising for the SCCSA program.

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

_____
Student's 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.*

☐ 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

Graduation Year   _____

         Application Deadline: April 16th

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?

☐ Magazine or Newspaper   ☐ Website   ☐ Advertisement

☐ Counselor/Teacher   _____

☐ Previous Attendee   _____

☐ 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. *This information is strictly for early program planning purposes and will not influence the application decision. 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. *This information is strictly for early program planning purposes and will not influence the application decision. If applicant is selected, further documentation may need to be submitted.*

_____

_____

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) 656-1534.

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   Livestock and Animal Production

  1   Forestry and Natural Resources

  2   Plant Sciences

YOUR RANKING

_____   Livestock and Animal Production

_____   Forestry and Natural Resources

_____   Plant Sciences

_____
Applicant's Full Name

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Personal Introduction Instructions:
Applicants must prepare a video, photo slideshow, or other creative digital media that introduces the applicant to the selection committee. This introduction should present the applicants desire to participate in the program and can incorporate background, experiences, interests and/or goals.

Regardless of format, submissions cannot exceed 5-minutes with no minimum length requirement.

Any applicant not able to complete this requirement can contact the SCCSA Director for guidance. Questions can be directed to the SCCSA Director.

Submitting Files:
For video and slideshow submissions, file formats accepted include MOV, MPEG, MP4, DVD, or YouTube. Submissions can be mailed along with application or submitted electronically to sccsa-l@clemson.edu.

Disclaimer:
Once submitted, the contents of this application become property of the SCCSA program and its affiliates. Submissions may be duplicated and replicated at the discretion of the SCCSA Program Director.   Applicant gives permissions for multimedia submissions to be used in future advertising for the SCCSA program.

For more information - www.clemson.edu/cafls/sccsa
For any questions, contact - (864) 656-1534

CURRENT ISSUES ESSAY

Current Issues Essay:
Discuss a current issue in agriculture or natural resources that is of specific interest. This can be a positive or negative issue related to these industries. It is important to state more than just facts and to incorporate ideas, solutions, concerns, or other thoughts.

Format:
Applicants should respond to this requirement using typed/word-processed, in an easy to read 12-point font. The essay should employ the applicant's best-written skills, reflect personal interests, and the writer should be conscious of utilizing resources. This statement should be clear and concise and can be either informative or persuasive. Essay must not exceed two typed pages. Each essay will be thoroughly reviewed and checked for plagiarism. Essays are required to follow standard MLA or APA format, providing reference to any resources utilized.

Essay Review:
Essays will be reviewed based on the following criteria:
1. Technical Content (spelling, grammar, sentence structure)
2. Content
3. Overall Quality
4. Creativity

Submitting Files:
Essays can be submitted along with application in hard copy or can be submitted electronically to sccsa-l@clemson.edu, preferred file type is Adobe PDF.

Disclaimer:
Once submitted, the contents of this application become property of the SCCSA program and its affiliates. Submissions may be duplicated and replicated at the discretion of the SCCSA Program Director. Applicant gives permissions for submissions to be used in future advertising for the SCCSA program.

For more information - www.clemson.edu/cafls/sccsa
For any questions, contact - (864)656-1534

SCHOOL COUNSELOR REVIEW & RECOMMENDATION

Review & Recommendation Guidelines:

1. Who may complete this form: High School Guidance Counselor Only
   Homeschool applicants 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 April 16th, 2021.
3. The application will be disqualified if it is late or incomplete. This form expires April 16th, 2021.
4. Visit the SCCSA website to submit electronically: www.clemson.edu/cafls/sccsa

For information, contact (864)656-1534 or sccsa-l@clemson.edu

Applicant's Name: _____   School: _____

Counselor Name: _____   Date: _____

PART I: 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. Although it is not required that the student has completed any standardized tests to attend the program, please provide explanation if scores are not available.

Class Rank_____   Class Size_____   Grade Point Average_____   Scale_____

Test Scores: PSAT: Verbal/Critical Reading_____   Writing_____ Math_____ Date_____

SAT: Verbal/Critical Reading_____   Writing_____ Math_____ Date_____

PLAN: Composite Score_____   Date_____

ACT: Composite Score_____   Date_____

Comments: _____

_____

How would you describe <u>this</u> student's course of study within the offerings at your school?

☐ Basic   ☐ Fairly Demanding   ☐ Very Demanding   ☐ Most Rigorous Available

PART II: Attendance Record

Total absences in last academic year: _____   Total to-date this academic year: _____
If excessive, please explain the circumstances in Part V.

Total tardies in last academic year: _____   Total to-date this academic year: _____
If excessive, please explain the circumstances in Part V.

PART III: Disciplinary Record

Has this student ever been suspended, expelled or placed on disciplinary or academic probation at your school?

☐ Yes ☐ No   *If yes, please explain the circumstances in Part V.*

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 with Reservations
         ☐ Recommend   ☐ Do Not Recommended

Do you have any reason to question this applicant's academic or personal integrity? ☐ Yes   ☐ No
If yes, please explain your reasons in Part V.

Part V: Counselor Statement
Please provide 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: Transcript
Please include an official copy of the applicant's transcript.

Part VII: 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: _____   Date: _____

PROGRAM BACKGROUND
It is important that all persons providing 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 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. 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)656-1534

SCIENCE TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

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. Homeschooled students should call for advice.*
2. Agriculture Teachers not eligible in this category.
3. Please complete this form and return it immediately to the student in a sealed and signed envelope. Application materials are due April 16th, 2021. The application will be disqualified if it is late or incomplete.
4. Visit the SCCSA website to submit electronically: www.clemson.edu/cafls/sccsa

Applicant's Name: _____   Reference Title: _____

Reference Name: _____   Organization: _____

PART I:
How does the applicant compare in **overall promise** with other youth whom you have interacted with throughout your career? Please check one statement below:

☐ Top 1%   ☐ Top 10%   ☐ Top 50%
☐ Top 5%   ☐ Top 20%   ☐ Other: _____

PART II:
Please indicate the level of **your recommendation** of the applicant for the South Carolina Commissioner's School for Agriculture. Please check one statement below:

☐ Highly Recommend   ☐ Recommend   ☐ Recommend with reservations   ☐ Do Not Recommend

PART III:
Please rate the applicant in the indicated abilities or characteristics to the best of your knowledge and provide evidence of specific occasions or incidents that you feel illustrate this behavior in the individual.

1. Maturity– aware of correct time and place for behaviors in situations with peers, mentors and professionals.

   ☐ Top 1%   ☐ Top 5%   ☐ Top 10%   ☐ Top 20%   ☐ Other: _____

   Provide Example/Comments:

   _____

   _____

   _____

2. Collaboration with Peers – Is able to interact with peers in a respectful and effective manner to accomplish tasks.

   ☐ Top 1%   ☐ Top 5%   ☐ Top 10%   ☐ Top 20%   ☐ Other: _____

   Provide Example/Comments:

   _____

   _____

3. Demonstrated Leadership – Willing to lead when appropriate or as needed.

☐ Top 1% ☐ Top 5% ☐ Top 10% ☐ Top 20% ☐ Other: _____

Provide Example/Comments:

_____

_____

_____

4. Enthusiasm towards Learning – Desires to learn; develops appropriate and thoughtful questions

☐ Top 1% ☐ Top 5% ☐ Top 10% ☐ Top 20% ☐ Other: _____

Provide Example/Comments:

_____

_____

_____

5. What makes this candidate unique among his/her peers?

_____

_____

_____

6. Have you observed a time when this individual has overcome a challenge or difficulty? What was it and how was he/she able to succeed?

_____

_____

_____

7. Please include any additional comments or information about this candidate you feel would be of value for the committee to consider. Please list any concerns you may have.

_____

_____

_____

Part V: Science Teacher 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: _____ Date:_____

COMMUNITY LEADER RECOMMENDATION

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.
2. Please complete this form and return it immediately to the student in a sealed and signed envelope. Application materials are due April 16th, 2021. The application will be disqualified if it is late or incomplete.
3. Visit the SCCSA website to submit electronically: www.clemson.edu/cafls/sccsa

For information, contact (864)656-1534 or sccsa-l@clemson.edu

Applicant's Name: _____   Reference Title: _____

Reference Name: _____   Organization: _____

PART I:
How does the applicant compare in **overall promise** with other youth whom you have interacted with throughout your career? Please check one statement below:

☐ Top 1%   ☐ Top 10%   ☐ Top 50%
☐ Top 5%   ☐ Top 20%   ☐ Other: _____

PART II:
Please indicate the level of **your recommendation** of the applicant for the South Carolina Commissioner's School for Agriculture. Please check one statement below:

☐ Highly Recommend   ☐ Recommend   ☐ Recommend with reservations   ☐ Do Not Recommend

PART III:
Please rate the applicant in the indicated abilities or characteristics to the best of your knowledge <u>and provide evidence</u> of specific occasions or incidents that you feel illustrate this behavior in the individual.

1. Maturity– aware of correct time and place for behaviors in situations with peers, mentors and professionals.

   ☐ Top 1%   ☐ Top 5%   ☐ Top 10%   ☐ Top 20%   ☐ Other: _____

   Provide Example/Comments:

   _____

   _____

   _____

2. Collaboration with Peers – Is able to interact with peers in a respectful and effective manner to accomplish tasks.

   ☐ Top 1%   ☐ Top 5%   ☐ Top 10%   ☐ Top 20%   ☐ Other: _____

   Provide Example/Comments:

   _____

   _____

3. Demonstrated Leadership – Willing to lead when appropriate or as needed.

    ☐ Top 1%   ☐ Top 5%   ☐ Top 10%   ☐ Top 20%   ☐ Other: _____

Provide Example/Comments:

_____

_____

_____

4. Enthusiasm towards Learning – Desires to learn; develops appropriate and thoughtful questions

    ☐ Top 1%   ☐ Top 5%   ☐ Top 10%   ☐ Top 20%   ☐ Other: _____

Provide Example/Comments:

_____

_____

_____

5. What makes this candidate unique among his/her peers?

_____

_____

_____

6. Have you observed a time when this individual has overcome a challenge or difficulty? What was it and how was he/she able to succeed?

_____

_____

_____

7. Please include any additional comments or information about this candidate you feel would be of value for the committee to consider. Please list any concerns you may have.

_____

_____

_____

Part V: Community Leader 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: _____   Date:_____