



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
**Department of Education**

January 16, 2015

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: 2015 National Youth Science Camp (NYSC)**

The National Youth Science Camp (NYSC) is an intense month-long camp for young scientists conducted during the summer after they graduate from high school. In a rustic setting in West Virginia, students from around the country are challenged academically in exciting lectures and hands-on studies on current science topics. The program also offers participants the opportunity to experience a wide variety of outdoor activities that have a minimal impact on the environment and are challenging for the experienced but accessible to those who have never participated in outdoor excursions. The NYSC is an all-expenses-paid program. The National Youth Science Foundation will arrange round trip transportation from an airport near the delegate's home to Charleston, West Virginia.

Two students are chosen to represent Virginia as delegates to the National Youth Science Camp. Eligible applicants must meet the following criteria:

- must be candidates for high school graduation between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015;
- must be able to attend the entire NYSC program in Charleston, West Virginia, on Friday, **June 17, 2015**, and depart on Sunday, **July 11, 2015**;
- must demonstrate superior academic proficiency, including recognition in mathematics and/or the sciences;
- must demonstrate an application of leadership abilities and social maturity through involvement in school and community activities;
- must demonstrate skills and achievements outside the realm of science and outside the realm of academic pursuits; and
- must demonstrate a curiosity and an eagerness to explore many and varied topics.

Information about the National Youth Science Camp and an application may be obtained at the [National Youth Science Camp](#) Web site. The application must be submitted through the NYSC Web site by March 1, 2015.

Applications will be reviewed by an expert panel based on the criteria required in the application. Applicants will be notified by March 31, 2015, regarding their selection status for the 2015 National Youth Science Camp.

Questions should be directed to Eric M. Rhoades, director, Office of Science and Health Education, by e-mail at [Eric.Rhoades@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Eric.Rhoades@doe.virginia.gov) or by telephone at (804) 786-2481.

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