



**Appalachian
STEM
Academy**
at Oak Ridge

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How much does it cost to participate in the Appalachian STEM Academy?

A: The Appalachian STEM Academy is a no-cost opportunity. There is no application fee or tuition. Participant travel, meals, and lodging are also covered by the program. Most participants will bring some money for incidentals or souvenirs, but that is not required.

Q: I live in an ARC county, but I am homeschooled. Am I eligible to apply?

A: Yes! All students who live and/or attend school in Appalachia are eligible to apply. That includes public, charter, private, and homeschool students. A full list of Appalachian counties can be found [here](#).

Q: I'm currently in 12th grade. Am I eligible to apply?

A: Unfortunately, if you are currently a senior, you are not eligible to apply.

Middle School program applicants need to currently be in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade. High School Student applicants need to currently be in 9th, 10th, or 11th grade. High School Teacher applicants need to teach in 10th, 11th, or 12th grade.

Q: Where do the participants stay?

A: Housing is provided in Oak Ridge, Tennessee at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites. The Appalachian STEM Academy has a long-standing relationship with this property and there are counselors and security staffed 24/7.

Q: Will there be extracurricular activities as part of the program?

A: Yes! In addition to lessons and group activities, participants will take part in several extracurricular activities during their time in the program. Depending on the age of the participants, these may include a riverboat cruise on the Tennessee River, an escape room, and even a trip to Dollywood! Accommodations are available for all activities for students who need them.

Q: What, if any, changes are being made to the Appalachian Entrepreneurship Academy in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?

A: The Appalachian STEM Academy team is monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic and are developing plans in accordance to CDC guidance. If the case rates across the region make it unsafe to host AEA in-person, we are prepared to host a virtual program and will work with selected students on those arrangements.

Q: I'm a parent or teacher who would like to talk to someone about the program. Is there someone I can talk to?

A: Yes! Feel free to reach out to the ARC team at academies@arc.gov and we will be happy to set up a time to talk about this program.

Other questions? Email us at academies@arc.gov.