



**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 attend school in [Appalachia](#) are eligible to apply. That includes public, charter, private, and homeschool students.

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 local hotels. Each program is headquartered at a different hotel. The Appalachian STEM Academy has long-standing relationships with these properties 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: 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.

Q. I am an Appalachian student who has been impacted by Hurricane Helene and I am struggling to get my application materials together by the deadline. What should I do?

A. If you have been impacted by Hurricane Helene and need assistance with your application, please contact academies@arc.gov. The ARC team is committed to ensuring that students impacted by the aftermath of Hurricane Helene are supported and have the opportunity to apply for our summer programs.

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