

**SCIENCE ALLIANCE PROGRAM – 2017 APPLICATION INFORMATION PACKET**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: Friday January 26, 2018**



Are you a 5<sup>th</sup> grader who is really excited about science?

Do you like dinosaurs?

Do you want to meet scientists and visit their labs?

Like to get your hands dirty?

What about giant galaxies?

And Human evolution?

You can learn about all of that and more, as a member of the American Museum of Natural History's Science Alliance Program. The Museum will be your classroom – you'll learn in the exhibits, visit collections and labs, and take classes with students that share your passion for science. You'll also conduct your own research, visit nearby forests, zoos, research centers, and other museums!

Participants who complete this 3-year program will be introduced to biodiversity and conservation, anthropology, astrophysics and other science disciplines of the Museum. Science Alliance encourages you to develop a life-long love of science, as you become part of a like-minded group of students your age who are driven by their curiosity about the scientific world. The program includes a component of shared learning. Special Parent Universities are scheduled so parents can learn about what you are learning. As of now, free Kaplan preparation workshops for the specialized high school test and the SAT's are also provided.

**To apply** to the Science Alliance Program, you must be:

- currently in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade (or homeschool equivalent) in the five boroughs of NYC.
- someone who loves science and can't get enough of it!
- able, willing, and eager to commit to a 3-year program that meets weekly during the school year on Monday or Friday afternoons from 4:30-6:30pm.
- a team player who like to accomplish goals, working with other people.

***PLEASE NOTE - Students may only apply to either AMNH's Lang Science Program, or AMNH's Science Alliance Program, not both. Please read below and make your choice.***

*This application is for the Science Alliance Program, [www.amnh.org/ScienceAlliance](http://www.amnh.org/ScienceAlliance)  
For more information about the Lang Science Program, please see [www.amnh.org/Lang](http://www.amnh.org/Lang)*

## Science Alliance Program – Frequently Asked Questions

### Who can apply?

New York City students who are currently in 5<sup>th</sup> grade (or homeschool equivalent).

### Can my 4<sup>th</sup> grader apply? Do you have spots for older students?

At this time, we are only accepting applications from students currently in 5<sup>th</sup> grade who will be entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2018-19 school year.

### What does the program cost?

**A very generous number of FEE WAIVERS to the program are available, based on financial need. Students who qualify attend for free.** For those that do not qualify, the full cost of the program is \$2000/year.

### When does the Science Alliance Program meet?

We meet on Monday or Friday late afternoons after school during the school year. We will try to do our best to place your child in their preferred meeting day, either Monday or Friday, but first choice is not guaranteed. There are three modules: Fall, Winter, and Spring. Schedules for the modules will be handed out well in advance of program dates, and take both DOE and Independent School breaks are accounted for in the calendar.

### What opportunities are available for my child after middle school?

After Science Alliance, students have access to the Museum's varied high school offerings. These include stand-alone classes, interning in Museum Halls, and in depth scientific research training. More information can be found at <http://www.amnh.org/learn-teach/grades-9-12>.

### Are the classes hands-on?

Yes! And more! Students are constantly learning by doing, observing, and creating. But the Science Alliance program has much more to offer, including behind-the-scenes tours of the Museum's labs and collections, guest scientists and student-led presentations.

### How many students are in the program?

Each year, we recruit approximately 20 new students entering each class of Year 1. In the 2017-18 school year, there are over 70 active students from 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

### Other than classes, what else is offered?

Science Alliance students are issued a photo ID badge that gives them access to the Museum. Additionally, students gain unique special access to space shows, temporary exhibitions and more.

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### When is the application due, and what does it require?

There are three parts of the application. The first part of the 2018 application is **due on Friday, Jan 26, 2018. Parts 2 and 3 are due on Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**

Each of the three parts is detailed on page 4. You **must** start with Part 1, the online portion. Parts 2 and 3 (see pages 5 – 10) ask you to submit additional information separately, and you will have additional time to do so.

If special accommodations are needed to apply to or participate in the Science Alliance Program, please call the Manager of Middle and High School Programs and Institutes, Leah Golubchick at 212-769-5982.

### After the application, then what?

Selected families will be invited in for interviews. More information on the interviews will be available at the appropriate time. For those who interview, we hope to inform you of our final decisions by late May. However, we cannot guarantee a specific date due to the extensive review process that each applicant receives.

### How do families get involved?

Each class module has a Parent University. Scheduled at the regular class time, parents are invited to join their students and see firsthand what they have learned in their most recent module. The precise content varies depending on the topic being taught that session, but generally includes a rich introduction to the content of class such as a hands-on activity for parents and students to complete or student led presentations. We also hold a final Commencement Event for the graduating 8<sup>th</sup> grade class.

Keeping families engaged as well as the students, is an important focus of the program. In addition to these events, we also offer free tickets to the Museum for families that are redeemable on any day. Bring your friends! Bring out-of-town guests!

### Do you offer assistance in applying to high school and college?

We are able to offer free test prep for 8<sup>th</sup> graders for the SHSAT (the Specialized High School Aptitude Test, to get into Stuyvesant, the Bronx High School of Science, and several other schools). Courses are delivered solely through Kaplan Test Prep. This availability is subject to change based on the relationships between Kaplan Test Prep and the Museum.

### Does the program provide lunch and transportation?

At this time, we are unable to provide meals.

For all field trips in the Science Alliance Program, we cover transportation and admissions costs.

## Application Instructions

The application has **three** parts:

**PART 1 is submitted online.** This online form asks for basic information about you, your parents and your school.

Available at: <http://bit.ly/SAP2018Application>

**\*\*This part must be completed by Friday, Jan 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018.\*\***

**PART 2:** A written supplement that will be uploaded or sent separately. It includes:

- a) a completed, hand-written student questionnaire (see page 5).
- b) signatures from the student applicant and a parent/ guardian letting us know you are fully interested and committed. (see page 6).
- c) a copy of the student's full 4<sup>th</sup> grade report card with teacher comments.
- d) a copy of the student's most recent 5<sup>th</sup> grade report card with teacher comments.

**\*\*This will be due by Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.**

*If the applicant has excessive absences or latenesses, you may attach an explanation.*

**To submit PART 2,** you have two options:

**EITHER:** Please scan or take a picture of the responses, and email them to [ApplyToSAP@amnh.org](mailto:ApplyToSAP@amnh.org). Please include the applicant's full name in the email. **This is the preferred method to submit Part 2 of the application.**

**OR:** you may hand-deliver Part 2. **Please save a copy for your own records.** Place the application in an envelope addressed to "The Science Alliance Program". Enter the museum **UNDER** the main staircase on Central Park West, and leave it with our security guards. This entrance is accessible 24 hours/day.

**PART 3:** Two recommendation letters from adults who are not family members. These may be from teachers (school or other), coaches, religious leaders, or anyone who can speak to the applicant's interests and commitment (see pages 7 - 10).

**\*\*These will be due by Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.**

**To submit PART 3:**

Recommenders should email their responses directly to [ApplyToSAP@amnh.org](mailto:ApplyToSAP@amnh.org). We will confirm all received responses with recommenders.

***We MUST have all three parts of the application completed for the process to move forward. Incomplete applications will not be considered for admission.***

### Questions?

If you have any questions, please feel free to email us (preferred) at [ApplyToSAP@amnh.org](mailto:ApplyToSAP@amnh.org), or call the manager, Leah Golubchick at 212-769-5982. Please note, due to the high volume of calls received, messages will be answered as quickly as possible. Email is always faster.

*After we receive your completed application, it will be thoroughly reviewed. Qualified applicants will be contacted after the application deadline and invited in for an interview.*

*If special accommodations are needed to apply to or participate in the program, please call the Science Alliance Program Manager, Leah Golubchick, at 212-769-5982.*



# AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

## SCIENCE ALLIANCE PROGRAM – 2018 APPLICATION (PART 2, PAGE 1) STUDENT APPLICATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Applicant Name \_\_\_\_\_

The questions below are to be answered *by the student applicant*. Parents/guardians may explain the questions, but the student should answer in their own words and in his or her own handwriting. Feel free to attach drawings, pictures or other creative work that helps him/her explain the answers. Please include the applicants name on every additional page.

For those who are physically unable to answer in their own handwriting, please type the answers and include an explanation.

1) Please explain why you want to be in the Science Alliance Program.

2) What are some of your favorite things to do in your free time?

3) Tell us something that has made you curious that you want to know more about.

4) Describe a time that you learned something about science outside of class at school.



# AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

## SCIENCE ALLIANCE PROGRAM – 2018 APPLICATION (PART 2, PAGE 2) COMMITMENT SIGN-OFF

### FOR PARENT/GUARDIAN

The Science Alliance Program is a 3-year program that meets Monday or Friday afternoons during the school year from 4:30-6:30 PM. We will try our best to place your child in their preferred meeting day, either Monday or Friday, but first choice is not guaranteed. As the parent/guardian of this applicant, I understand this and am willing, able, and eager to support my student in this endeavor. We will take this commitment seriously, and will make this program a priority over other activities for my child, except for family and school.

Please indicate preferred meeting day. Feel free to check both boxes if either session works for you:

- Monday 4:30 - 6:30pm
- Friday 4:30 - 6:30pm

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

### FOR APPLICANT

As the applicant, I also am willing, able, and eager to participate in the Science Alliance Program!

I have a deep interest in science and the natural world, and I want to work with other students who share these interests. If I am selected, I will be an active member of the program, will respect other students, and work together with others. I realize this will take up a lot of time, and am willing to commit my Friday afternoons to be a part of it.

Applicant name: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**SCIENCE ALLIANCE PROGRAM – 2018 APPLICATION, PART 3  
RECOMMENDATION #1 FORM, PAGE 1**

Student's name \_\_\_\_\_

Recommender's name \_\_\_\_\_

To the recommender,

Thank you for taking the time to tell us about this student who is applying to the Science Alliance Program. The Science Alliance program is a 3-year, extracurricular, afterschool science program concentrating on the sciences studied and exhibited at the American Museum of Natural History. Students take courses, conduct research, prepare for high school, and also meet scientists, work collaboratively, and explore the natural world. For more information, please see <http://www.amnh.org/ScienceAlliance>

*All answers will be kept confidential. Answers below should be written legibly, or can be typed/printed, or responses can be sent in via email. See the next page for details on returning answers to us.*

1) What is your relationship with this student, and how long have you known her/him?

2) How has this student demonstrated an interest in science?

3) To the best of your knowledge, please comment on whether this applicant has had opportunities for extra-curricular science programs (after school, in the community, etc.).

4) Has this student's family supported her/his interests? If so, in what way(s)?

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# SCIENCE ALLIANCE PROGRAM – 2018 APPLICATION, PART 3

## RECOMMENDATION #1 FORM, PAGE 2

Student's name \_\_\_\_\_

Recommender's name \_\_\_\_\_

5) Does this student work well with others (including classmates and adults)? Please explain.

6) Describe a time when this student has displayed one of her/his greatest strengths.

7) If you have any concerns about this student being in the Science Alliance Program, please describe them below.

8) Is there anything else we should know about this student?

### **TO SUBMIT RESPONSES:**

All responses are due to us by Friday, **February 9, 2018**. Please email your responses to *ApplyToSAP@amnh.org* from your professional email account, if you have one (for example *JDoe@schools.nyc.gov*). We will acknowledge all responses that are sent in on time.



**SCIENCE ALLIANCE PROGRAM – 2018 APPLICATION, PART 3  
RECOMMENDATION #2 FORM, PAGE 1**

Student's name \_\_\_\_\_

Recommender's name \_\_\_\_\_

To the recommender,

Thank you for taking the time to tell us about this student who is applying to the Science Alliance Program. The Science Alliance program is a 3-year, extracurricular, afterschool science program concentrating on the sciences studied and exhibited at the American Museum of Natural History. Students take courses, conduct research, prepare for high school, and also meet scientists, work collaboratively, and explore the natural world. For more information, please see <http://www.amnh.org/ScienceAlliance>

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# SCIENCE ALLIANCE PROGRAM – 2018 APPLICATION, PART 3

## RECOMMENDATION #2 FORM, PAGE 2

Student's name \_\_\_\_\_

Recommender's name \_\_\_\_\_

5) Does this student work well with others (including classmates and adults)? Please explain.

6) Describe a time when this student has displayed one of her/his greatest strengths.

7) If you have any concerns about this student being in the Science Alliance Program, please describe them below.

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