

APPENDIX 4: EDUCATOR RECOMMENDATION

INSTRUCTIONAL DOCUMENT REGENERON SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH 2024

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Who should complete the Educator Recommendation?

- A high school teacher who has worked with you in a classroom setting during any year of high school. Preference should be given to science, engineering and/or math educators.

When is the Educator Recommendation due?

- The deadline for your Recommender to submit this form is Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 8:00 pm Eastern Time. This deadline is now the same date and time as the student application deadline. We will be unable to accept materials, including recommendations, after this deadline.

How do I request my Educator Recommendation?

- Talk to or email your recommenders to ask them if they would be willing to complete a recommendation on your behalf. Let them know that they should anticipate an automated email from our online system – the sender name will be “Regeneron Science Talent Search.” Then request your Educator Recommendation through the online application system.
- We recommend that you request your recommendations the day you open your application to allow your recommenders plenty of time.
- It is your responsibility to remind your recommenders to submit their recommendations before the deadline. We cannot accept any portions of the application, including recommendations, after the application deadline.

How many Educator Recommendations should I request?

- Consider requesting multiple Educator Recommendations only if you believe each educator has something unique to say about your abilities. We encourage you to ask another supportive adult, like a coach or boss, to provide a recommendation as well.
- If you are a homeschool student and your parent is your only educator and completes an Educator Recommendation, we recommend that you request a second Educator Recommendation from a non-relative who knows you in an academic setting, even if not in the traditional classroom sense.

Other things to know about the Educator Recommendation:

- The Society does not accept PDF letters of recommendations. Recommenders are required to answer a few short responses within the online form.
- Recommendations are confidential; entrants waive their rights to see content shared by recommenders.
- Exact questions and word limits stated on the next page may vary slightly in the online application.

EDUCATOR RECOMMENDATION PREVIEW

1. Do you have a familial relationship with the student? Such a relationship is not disallowed under Regeneron STS rules, however it is important that it be disclosed. If so, please describe the relationship.
2. Have any of your former students entered and/or won awards in the Science Talent Search?
 - a. Yes, my students have entered STS
 - b. Yes, my students have won awards at the scholar or finalist level in STS
 - c. No, none of my students have ever entered STS
 - d. Unsure
3. Describe the culture of science research at your high school. Do you teach or lead a research class or club? Is the group selective? If this context impacts your ranking of this student in the questions below, please explain here. (150 words max)
4. How long have you known this student and in what capacity? How does this student compare to students you currently teach and also to those you have known during your teaching career? (150 words max)
5. Please describe your personal observation (if any) of the student's character and integrity, leadership among their peers or in your community, and any challenges they have overcome. Use specific examples, if possible, and do not include activities you have not witnessed. Entrants are able to provide a full extracurricular list in their portion of the application. What makes you believe in their potential as a future leader in science, technology, engineering and mathematics? What makes this student stand out amongst their peers? (200 words max)
6. What level of mentorship and guidance have you provided the student with the STS application process and/or the research project? Please explain your level of knowledge (if any) regarding the submitted research project and/or any other research projects conducted by this student during their high school career. (It's ok if you really don't know or were not involved in the project itself! We are just curious about the levels of support the student received). Can you attest that the application and research project submitted in this application properly reflect the student's contribution? (200 word max)
7. Please rank this student compared to others you have supported in the past. Rankings are NOT used to cull applicants. Please be honest in your assessment, as this helps us compare your own students to one another, and others in your community. Regeneron STS seeks to identify future leaders in STEM. Rank in the following categories: Independence, Creativity, Problem-Solving Abilities & Leadership Potential
Top 1% Top 5% Top 10% Top 25% Top 50% Other
8. or anything we should know about this student in general? (150 words max)

ETHICS AGREEMENT

I certify that I have presented the full truth regarding the student researcher's experience in my classroom and have not presented false information. I understand that mentors of Regeneron STS entrants may not benefit financially based on the overall placement of entrants in the competition.

TROUBLESHOOTING ISSUES

Should your Recommender experience any issues with our online process, please encourage them to review the Recommender FAQ on the application website and to email sts@societyforscience.org with any other concerns. Once you request a recommendation from them through the online system, the Recommender should receive an email with instructions. Occasionally these messages are caught in junk mail or strict school email filters, or a recommender could receive requests from multiple students under different email addresses, causing confusion. We are happy to investigate any issues.