



ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES SUMMER YOUTH INSTITUTE

Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Telephone: (315) 781-4401 / Fax: (315) 781-3843
E-mail: essyi@hws.edu • Website: essyi.hws.edu

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for your interest in ESSYI. The email addressed to your child contains information that is important for you as well. Please take a moment to review it. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with important information regarding ESSYI.

First, please note that there are four administrative staff members involved in ESSYI at this time: Paul Kehle Ph.D., Susan Cushman Ph.D., Kirsten Burrall and myself (Jim MaKinster Ph.D.). I am the Executive Director and manage the overall program, oversee admissions, and facilitate the majority of the planning during the academic year. I have been involved in ESSYI for 17 years and have been serving as a director for the past 12 years.

Professor Paul Kehle is the Summer Director. He will be with the students throughout the two-week experience as he manages and runs the program. Paul is in charge of the staff and will be the person for you to contact if you have any questions or concerns during the two weeks.

Professor Susan Cushman is the Adirondack Director and oversees project activities and field work projects in the Adirondack Mountains during the second week of the program.

Kirsten Burrall, who you have most likely been in contact with at some point, is the Program Manager who works on logistics to ensure your child will have a successful experience. During the first week of the program she will be available in the office intercepting any immediate communications and program needs. She is also a chaperone during the second week in the Adirondack Mountains.

All of us work together closely and are well prepared to welcome and support your child throughout the program. While on campus, students may receive mail at the following address (please send any packages very early in the first week so students will receive them before leaving during the second week):

STUDENT'S NAME
c/o Environmental Studies Summer Youth Institute
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
300 Pulteney Street
Geneva, NY 14456-3397

Our schedule will be busy, so it will be difficult to get through to your child on the phone. It will be easiest if students make arrangements with their families to call home from time to time. We ask students to not use their cell phones during the day, so please do not call them during the academic day unless it is absolutely necessary. When we are not in

the Adirondacks, parents may leave messages for their children at the office phone number (315)-781-4401 and it will be checked at least twice a day.

Check in is Sunday, July 15th from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the registration area on campus in front of **Sherrill Hall, 51 St. Clair Street, Geneva, NY 14456** (see enclosed map). Please park in The College Store Parking Lot, off of St. Clair Street, and walk to the registration tables. We will be set up, under a tent, in front of Sherrill Hall, facing the street. At 2:00 pm there will be a brief ESSYI Program Introduction for families in Froelich Hall of the Gearan Center for the Performing Arts followed by a reception; we hope you will be able to participate, but it is not necessary. **The reception time will also be the time when you can say goodbye to your child.**

Check out is on Saturday, July 28th from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Sherrill Hall. Prior to departure, there will be a wrap up session from 10:00am to 11:30am that parents/guardians are welcome to attend in the Fish Room of the Gearan Center for the Performing Arts.

If there is a change or an emergency that affects the pick-up or drop-off time of your child (if requested), we will let you know by calling the number listed on the registration form.

Contact Information

ESSYI Phone – (315) 781-4401 (office)

Kirsten will be at this phone Monday through Friday of the first week and will check the voicemail at least once a day throughout the program. Please contact her if you need anything. You may use the ESSYI email as well (essyi@hws.edu).

Paul Kehle – (315) 781-3037 (office) 315-830-8321 (cell)

As the Summer Director, Paul is your primary contact for any significant concerns at any time the group is not in the Adirondacks.

Susan Cushman – (585) 730-2531 (cell)

As the Adirondack Director, Susan is your primary contact for any significant concerns at any time the group is in the Adirondacks (July 23rd – 26th).

Kirsten Burrall – (315) 521-7714 (cell)

If you can't reach Paul or Susan for something significant, you are welcome to contact Kirsten.

Jim MaKinster – (315) 398-1314 (cell) or makinster@hws.edu

Finally, if you have any larger concerns or issues that might not be able to be addressed by others, please do feel free to call or email me directly. Due to family obligations, I am not always on campus in the summer, but would be happy to talk to you if necessary.

Adirondacks

A reminder - we will be camping in the Adirondacks from Monday, July 23rd through Thursday, July 26th.

First, cell phone coverage in the Adirondacks is very spotty (at best) but there are options if you need to reach your child or the group. You may try to call Susan Cushman directly (see above); leave a message on the ESSYI office phone (315)781-4401; talk to the Colleges' security office; or you can leave a message for the group at the Adirondack Ecological Center in Newcomb, NY at (518) 582-4551.

Second, as we've informed your child, they will not have access to their cell phones while in the Adirondacks. We choose to ask for their cell phones so they can have a completely "unplugged" experience. While some students are hesitant at first, this often becomes a very important and enjoyable part of the experience. For three and a half days,

they are able to focus solely on the people and the world around them. Please know that we will provide them with cell phone access in case of any emergencies or significant concerns.

Emergencies

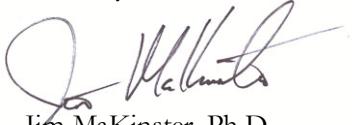
In an emergency, you can try calling Paul Kehle's or Susan Cushman's phone, and leave a message if necessary. You should also call the College's Security Office, (315) 781-3656: we will keep them apprised of our plans and they should be able to locate participants and staff to deliver a message.

If there is a travel issue on July 15th, please first call Paul. If there is no answer a message can be left on that number or the ESSYI office (315) 781-4401 or on Kirsten Burrall's cell phone, (315) 521-7714.

In the event of an illness or injury that occurs to a student exceeding the scope of first aid and resulting in the attention of the local hospital, you will be contacted at the earliest possible time; usually within an hour.

Finally, please do not hesitate to e-mail or call our office any time you have questions and thank you for enabling your child to join us this summer. We are sure that they are going to have a fun and valuable experience. ESSYI is a transformative program for our students.

Sincerely,



Jim MaKinster, Ph.D.

Executive Director

Environmental Studies Summer Youth Institute

(315) 781-4401

essyi@hws.edu