



## In Case You Were Wondering...

### Frequently Asked Questions about the Environmental Studies Summer Youth Institute

**HOW MANY STUDENTS WILL THERE BE? WHERE MIGHT THEY BE FROM?** We anticipate approximately 50 students will attend the Institute. We have received applications from students who live just down the road in the Finger Lakes region, others from throughout the Northeast, and still others from as far away as the West coast. In the past, the Institute has hosted students from Maryland, Kentucky, Michigan, Florida, Missouri, Arizona, Colorado, Washington, Oregon, and California. In addition, we've had many international students from Germany, Spain, France, Greece, South Korea, and even countries in Africa.

**HOW MUCH COLLEGE CREDIT WILL I RECEIVE?** Students who successfully complete the Institute will earn 1 course credit from Hobart and William Smith Colleges. This is the equivalent of four semester hours or four credit hours at other institutions. In addition, since the program is limited in size and you will be working closely with Hobart and William Smith professors, you may have the opportunity to ask them to write letters of recommendation to include in your college applications.

**WHAT WILL WE DO ON THE WEEKEND?** The Institute goes 24/7, so weekend days will involve classes, field work, etc., just like the rest of the week.

**WHAT ABOUT THE ADIRONDACK TRIP?** Five days of the program will be spent camping in the Adirondacks. We can provide any equipment you do not have, and will send a packing list in one of our subsequent mailings. We will be camping at Lake Harris Campground near SUNY ESF's Ecological Center in Newcomb, NY in the Northeastern Adirondacks. While camping, students will have to share in cooking and cleaning responsibilities. The days will be spent doing fieldwork and the evenings will be devoted to discussing our results. Let's hope for good weather! But, good weather or not, we expect to have a great time!

**HOW MUCH FREE TIME WILL I HAVE?** We have tried to reach the right balance of freedom and structure. We will have a busy schedule of academic sessions and recreational activities, and we are certain that you will find most, if not all, activities to be both rewarding and enjoyable. We will reserve a little free time for you on most days, a couple of hours at most, so that you may keep your journal up to date, make new friends, and explore our beautiful campus. We have never had a problem with Institute students feeling bored!

**WILL I HAVE A ROOMMATE? HOW ARE ROOMMATES SELECTED?** Almost all students will have a roommate. We try to pair up students of the same age, and, in keeping with the Colleges' general philosophy regarding diversity, we try to pair students with different backgrounds and interests.

**HOW MUCH TIME WILL I SPEND ON THE BOAT?** We will reserve time in the schedule for each student to spend about three hours on the *HWS Scandling*, our 65-foot oceanographic research vessel. Since the boat's capacity is approximately 20 people, we'll be splitting up into smaller groups on boat days. There is also a canoe trip in the Adirondacks.

**WHO WILL BE LIVING WITH THE STUDENTS IN THE RESIDENCE HALLS?** The residential staff will be comprised of the Institute Summer Director and current HWS students serving as Institute and residential staff. All staff members have personal interests in the diverse field of environmental studies. The staff will attend all sessions and be as much a part of the Institute as students or faculty.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF A STUDENT IS FOUND IN POSSESSION OR UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL?** He or she will be dismissed from the Institute. Note that there are no refunds for students who must leave the Institute.

**CAN I LEAVE THE CAMPUS TO EXPLORE THE COMMUNITY?** While Geneva is a fascinating small town and is considered to be a safe community, participants in the ESSYI program are not allowed to leave the campus at any time during the program. In an unforeseen emergency, students who are required to leave the campus will be accompanied by two staff members to ensure their safety.

**WHAT WILL I NEED TO BRING?** A complete list will be sent to you over the summer. Most of what you will need will be appropriate outdoor clothes, water shoes, and a comfortable pair of boots or "all terrain" sneakers. If you will be buying boots for the Institute, please make sure that you thoroughly break them in before you arrive at the Institute. Though summer in the Finger Lakes is typically beautiful, we may encounter rain. Rain gear can make working outside in the elements a lot more pleasant and we strongly urge you to bring rain gear with you.

**WILL I NEED SPENDING MONEY?** We do not recommend bringing large amounts of cash. All expenses directly related to the program are included in the program fee, including all meals, course materials, park entrance fees, and the like. You will, however, want to bring spending money for snacks and miscellaneous personal items. The College Store has a great selection of books and other items related to environmental studies that may prove tempting. Past students have told us that \$75 to \$100 is adequate. Staff are not allowed to lend students money during the program.

**ARE VEGETARIAN MEALS AVAILABLE?** Yes, but we need to know your dietary needs in advance. While the Colleges' regular meal plan includes vegetarian selections with each meal, the summer meal plan makes vegetarian meals available only by special request. If you maintain a vegetarian diet or have any other special diet requirements that we should know about, please indicate this on the registration form so special arrangements may be made. We do not have access to a kosher kitchen. Once a dietary request is made, it cannot be changed to accommodate a student's preferences during the program.

**WHICH AIRPORT IS CLOSEST TO GENEVA? HOW WILL I GET FROM THE AIRPORT TO GENEVA?** Rochester and Syracuse are both about an hour away, so plan to fly into whichever one is most convenient to your travel plans. We will gladly make arrangements to pick you up at the airport. The service costs \$50 each way.

**WHEN SHOULD I PLAN ON ARRIVING AND LEAVING?** Plan on arriving at the Colleges before noon on the first day. Let your parents know that ESSYI will be hosting a reception for them at 2:00 p.m., so that they have the opportunity to meet the staff and faculty members involved in the Institute. We will wrap up the program at 11:00 a.m. on the last day and it is important to plan your departure around this time. We'll be sending directions and information about local accommodations in a future mailing to assist you with your travel plans.

**WHEN WILL I NEXT HEAR FROM THE INSTITUTE?** You should receive an acknowledgment letter shortly after you send in your registration. There will be a mailing to all registered students with updated information about the schedule, an equipment list, and a request for information about your travel plans in mid-June. You may also receive reminders if we still need health forms, information, and the like as the middle of June approaches. We will also be updating the website regularly and we urge students to check there regularly. Feel free to call or email if a question comes up.

**CAN I RECEIVE PACKAGES FROM HOME?** Students can receive mail from home. ***Parents: please be aware that packages must be sent from home EARLY in the week to arrive before students leave for the second week.*** Packages also take a day or two to be processed at the mail room before being delivered to ESSYI on campus – so plan accordingly. Do not have any perishable items sent from home.

**IS THERE ANY SHORTER WAY OF REFERRING TO “THE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES SUMMER YOUTH INSTITUTE?”** Referring to it by the letters ESSYI is a lot easier and everyone here at HWS will know what you mean!