



Environmental Studies Summer Youth Institute  
Hobart and William Smith Colleges  
Telephone: (315) 781-4401/ Fax: (315) 781-3843  
E-mail: [essyi@hws.edu](mailto:essyi@hws.edu) • Website: [essyi.hws.edu](http://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 the program.

First, please note that there are three staff leaders involved in ESSYI this summer: Jamie MaKinster Ph.D. (myself – (she/her), Roberta Palmiotto (she/her), and Macenzie Peters (she/her). 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 21 years and have been serving as a director for the past 18.

I am also serving as the Summer Director. I will be with the students throughout the two-week experience and run the program. I oversee and manage the student staff and I will be the person for you to contact if you have any questions or concerns.

Roberta Palmiotto is the Associate Director and will help to oversee project activities and fieldwork in the Finger Lakes Region during the second week of the program. Roberta is a local high school science teacher with 30 years of experience who in 2018 was inducted into the New York State Master Teacher Program. She's traveled nationally and internationally and has significant experience working with high school students in these types of settings.

Macenzie Peters, who you have most likely been in contact with at some point, is the Program Manager who works on the administration and logistics of the program to ensure your child will have a successful experience. During the two weeks of the program, she will be available in the office intercepting any immediate communications and program needs. She will also be a chaperone during field excursions.

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 or text them during the academic day unless it is absolutely necessary. You may leave messages for your child at the office phone number (315)-781-4401 and it will be checked at least once a day.

**Covid-19 Ensuring the Safety of Everyone:** In order to prioritize the well-being of all individuals involved, we kindly request that you provide a negative Covid-19 test result taken within 24 to 48 hours prior to your arrival. We accept standard at-home tests for your convenience. To comply with this requirement, please take a clear photo of your test result and submit it via email. Thank you for your cooperation in maintaining a safe environment.

**Check in** is Sunday, July 9th from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the registration area on campus in front of **de Cordova Hall, off St. Clair Street, Geneva, NY 14456** (see enclosed map). Please park in the circular parking lot, next to McCormick House (#37 on campus map), and walk to the registration tables. We will be set up under a tent in front of de Cordova Hall. 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 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at de Cordova 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 Froelich Hall 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** – 585 -752 -9563 (Cell) (315) 781-4401 (office)

Macenzie will be in the office Monday through Friday mornings 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](mailto:essyi@hws.edu)).

**Jamie MaKinster** – (315) 398-1314 (cell) or [makinster@hws.edu](mailto:makinster@hws.edu)

As the Summer Director, I am your primary contact for any significant concerns; please do feel free to call or email me directly.

**Roberta Palmiotto** – (315) 406-6546 (cell)

As the Associate Director, Roberta will be guiding one of the two groups during our days of hiking and canoeing. (July 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>).

**Macenzie Peters** – (585) 752-9563 (cell)

If you can't reach myself or Roberta for something significant, you are welcome to contact Macenzie.

### Adirondacks

A reminder - we will be camping in the Adirondacks from Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>.

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 Roberta Palmiotto 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

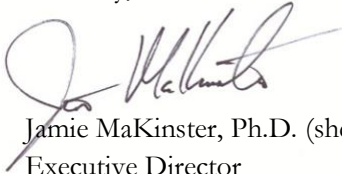
In an emergency, you should call Jamie MaKinster's or Roberta Palmiotto's phone, and leave a message if necessary. You should also call the College's Security Office, (315) 781-3656: we will keep them apprised of our plans and they should be able to locate participants and staff to deliver a message.

If there is a travel issue on July 9<sup>th</sup>, please first call me. If there is no answer a message can be left on that number or the ESSYI office (315) 781-4401 or on Macenzie's cell phone, (585) 752-9563.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jamie MaKinster', written over a horizontal line.

Jamie MaKinster, Ph.D. (she/her)

Executive Director

Environmental Studies Summer Youth Institute

(315) 781-4401

[essyi@hws.edu](mailto:essyi@hws.edu)