

**Is your child interested in Science?
Have you heard about the Starkville Science Club?**



Since 2008, the Starkville Science Club has offered 4–5th grade students within the Starkville School District an opportunity to learn in–depth natural resource science topics in a fun and interactive setting. Our main objective is to provide students with an exciting, safe, educational forum in which to generate enthusiasm and interest in science and the environment.

The Starkville Science Club is now accepting student applications for the 2017–18 school year. Students entering 4th or 5th grade may apply now until July 31st. Applicants will be notified on Friday, August 4th regarding their membership status. The Science Club is a 38–week long after–school program that meets every Tuesday from 3pm–5:30pm at Sudduth Elementary. We also go on several field trips throughout the year and participate in additional programming such as camping trips and full–day events.

Application Process:

Applications will be accepted beginning July 1, 2017 until July 31, 2017

• Hand write an essay 4–6 sentences in length. Use your own creativity when creating the essay, but please include topics such as:

- 1) why you are interested in joining or returning,
- 2) what you would look forward to most as a member of the Science Club,
- 3) your favorite science topic,
- 4) what you hope to learn throughout the year.

Please don't forget to fill out the contact information portion of the essay. Typed or e–mailed applications will not be accepted unless the handwritten letter is scanned and sent as an attachment.

Applications can either be scanned and sent to jessica.tegt@msstate.edu or sent by mail to Jessica Tegt, Mailstop 9690, MS State, MS 39769. MSU campus mail is also acceptable– Mailstop 9690.

• You must add your teacher's name from the previous year. That teacher may be contacted for a short evaluation regarding attitude and effort. Students may be contacted for a personal interview

• Students will be notified on Monday, August 4th of their acceptance.

Student Selection Criteria

We are only able to accept 40 students into the Science Club each year and we typically receive more than 100 applications. This is not meant to be discouraging but it does mean for fairness to all applicants that we adhere to stringent criteria when selecting our students. We have a four–person independent committee that reviews and ranks the applications. Students who were in the Science Club in fourth grade

must re-apply in fifth grade. Prior history will be considered, but is not an automatic acceptance. Interest in science is a must; grades and academic skill are not our top priority for selection. We are interested in students with a positive attitude, a good work ethic, enjoyment in learning new things, good cooperation, and can follow directions.

The below criteria is used to help in the selection process.

- 1) Addresses specific topics from the posted schedule and follow directions for application
- 2) Personal History with student in Science Club or YES! program- is the behavior and participation of the student a good fit with SC expectations?
- 3) A feeling of genuine interest in science (not that parent forced the application)
- 4) Doesn't just list expectations as "having fun" or "going on field trips"
- 5) Application shows effort and creativity (also must be legible)

Time Commitments for Students and Family

Please look over the schedule on our website (<https://starkvillescienceclub.wordpress.com/schedule/>) and ensure that our topics and the times that we meet align with interests and other extra-curricular commitments. The Science Club is an academic year-long commitment. We meet every Tuesday after school from 3:00-5:30 and take frequent field/over-night trips. We understand that active students and families are busy, however take into consideration any possible time conflicts. Frequent absences may result in dismissal from the Club in order for someone on the waiting list to have an opportunity.

It is both important and necessary for family members to be involved with helping our program thrive. We ask for support and assistance during overnight trips, and open communication with the members and instructional staff.

Financial Commitment

We strive to keep costs low for families and students. However, budgets have become tighter in recent years and we would like to maintain our high level of programming. We serve snack every Tuesday after school and also use buses/MSU vans for transportation. We have entrance fees into Museums, parks, and zoos, and meals and lodging. We are asking that parents contribute \$150 for the year to offset some of these costs. This also includes a t-shirt and banquet costs. If you are unable to pay the \$150, notify the director and we will work on a scholarship application for your child. We do not want money to deter a worthy child from participating.

Do not hesitate to contact Jessica Tegt with any questions about the Starkville Science Club. She can be reached at 325-7263 or jessica.tegt@msstate.edu

A parent/student meeting will be held in the Sudduth cafeteria on Friday, August 11th at 5:30pm. Our first student meeting of the year will be on Tuesday, August 22nd.

Additional Information: www.starkvillescienceclub.wordpress.com