



Guidance Counselor  
Alabama High School  
2 January 2016

Dear Guidance Counselor:

This is to inform you that the twenty-ninth annual Alabama Governor's School will be held June 12–24, 2016, at Samford University. Traditionally, The Governor's School offers academically strong Alabama high school juniors (those who will graduate in 2017) an opportunity to participate in a short residential program of stimulating academic and extra-curricular activity. In December 1987 Governor Guy Hunt designated the Alabama Honor Academy at Samford as The Alabama Governor's School. Since that date, Samford University has offered its beautiful campus and excellent facilities to support this program.

This year, the program theme will be "American Vision: World View." Each participant will take one morning and one afternoon seminar that will focus on challenging and expanding his or her worldview. The courses include, but are not limited to, fine arts, web design, modern legal systems, research science, business, and medicine. All courses are small and designed to stimulate interaction with professors and fellow students. In addition, there will be opportunities to meet business, academic, and political leaders from Alabama and beyond.

Enclosed are the details of the 2016 program. I encourage you to select your best and most creative students for this program. A maximum of four nominations is recommended per school. Please make your selections promptly: applications must be postmarked on or before Tuesday, March 15, 2016.

Please feel free to copy these forms or to download more forms from our website:  
<http://alabamags.org/students/nomination-packet/>.

If you desire further information, please contact me anytime.

Sincerely,

George Keller

*The*  
*Alabama Governor's*  
*School*

**Samford University**  
Birmingham, Alabama

**2016 Session**

**Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> through**  
**Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>**



## **WHAT IS THE ALABAMA GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL?**

The Alabama Governor's School is a summer residential honors program funded by Samford University, the State of Alabama, and private sources. The program was established in 1987 as the Alabama Honors Academy at Samford University, and patterned after governor's schools in North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Georgia, Mississippi, and Kentucky. In January 1988, Governor Guy Hunt designated the Alabama Honors Academy as The Alabama Governor's School. Thus, Alabama became the 24<sup>th</sup> state to have this nationally recognized school. The Alabama Governor's School provides academic, creative, and leadership experiences for a limited number of rising high school seniors who have demonstrated exceptional ability and achievement in their studies. Students must show high intellectual and creative potential.

The Alabama Governor's School is a member of the National Conference of Governor's Schools.

## **WHERE AND WHEN IS THE ALABAMA GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL CONDUCTED?**

The Alabama Governor's School is located on Samford University's well-equipped campus in Birmingham, AL. The program covers a period of twelve days and is held during the month of June.

## **WHAT IS THE CURRICULUM?**

Each student takes one morning and one afternoon seminar which

focus on hands-on, experiential learning. The seminars are led by leading academic, business, and political experts in their fields. The program includes classes, seminars, workshops, self-directed studies, and projects in a variety of subject areas from a) the natural sciences, b) the humanities, c) the social sciences, and d) the fine and performing arts.

The program includes field trips in and around Birmingham, recreational activities, skits, and a talent night.

## **WHAT IS A TYPICAL DAY AT THE ALABAMA GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL?**

Each day begins early and features a full schedule of classes and optional activities. Students engage in intensive work in a variety of interests. To the extent possible, the subject concentrations incorporate exposure to current theory and extensive hands-on experience or field work.

Seminars on values and issues, which deal with major national and international issues, offer creative and practical experiences and constitute an equally important aspect of The Alabama Governor's School. Although operating within a common framework and sharing certain readings, each activity has its own individual character and focus, allowing for spontaneity and flexibility.

All Alabama Governor's School Scholars will examine options for future personal, intellectual, and professional development. A wide range of cultural, social,

athletic, and recreational enrichment activities meets creative and social needs of the students. Interspersed throughout the schedule are numerous opportunities for relaxing and for just talking with gifted and talented peers, faculty, and staff.

## **IN WHAT WAY DOES THE ALABAMA GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL DIFFER FROM REGULAR SCHOOL?**

Students from The Alabama Governor's School are drawn from all parts of the State of Alabama. They share a common desire to explore academic and intellectual topics and to engage in creative pursuits at a level and pace not always possible during the regular school year. A conscious effort is made to avoid presenting courses commonly available in either standard high school or undergraduate curricula.

## **ARE GRADES OR CREDIT AWARDED?**

No. Neither grades nor academic credit is given at The Alabama Governor's School. All students who complete the program successfully receive a certificate attesting to their participation.

## **WHAT IS EXPECTED OF PARTICIPANTS?**

Students are required to attend and participate in classes, the central theme program, and other selected activities. All other activities are optional, although students are encouraged to utilize all opportunities available to them.

Assignments may include the keeping of journals, the preparation of essays and position papers, library research, extensive reading, laboratory work, and other special projects. Some subject concentrations involve field studies, rehearsals, preparation of exhibits, and participation in public performances, or production of a video, magazine, or yearbook. Every participant should be prepared for extensive mental exercise. Alabama Governor's School scholars will find their participation to be one of the most challenging and stimulating learning experiences they have had.

## **WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND THE ALABAMA GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL?**

Rising high school seniors who are residents of Alabama are eligible to attend, if they are identified by their schools as academically talented.

## **HOW ARE STUDENTS SELECTED FOR THE ALABAMA GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL?**

Eligible students may be nominated by their principal, headmaster, counselor, or themselves. A liaison at each high school receives information and application materials and can advise students concerning local procedures. High schools are urged to widely advertise The Alabama Governor's School and the opportunity it represents. Nominations are made on the basis of criteria provided by The Alabama Governor's School. Individual students who are interested in the program should contact their principal, headmaster, or



guidance office for further information.

Once nominated, a panel of distinguished educators carefully screens all candidates. Selections are based on the panel's recommendations. Students and their schools are advised of the results of the selection process.

#### **WHAT IS THE EXPECTED ENROLLMENT?**

The Alabama Governor's School expects to enroll between 80 and 90 students.

#### **WHAT IS THE COST OF THE PROGRAM TO PARTICIPANTS?**

Tuition, room, board, field trips, and other activities planned for the school are provided. The total cost of the program is more than \$1,000 per student. However, each student is asked to pay only \$480. If the student's family is unable to pay the \$480, the student is encouraged to seek assistance from church, civic, business, or corporate sources in the student's local community. Scholarships are available to supplement family and community resources. Each student must provide funds for incidental and personal expenses, stationery supplies, and transportation to and from the school. In some cases, specific seminar supplies may have to be provided by the student.

#### **WHERE ARE THE STUDENTS HOUSED?**

The Alabama Governor's School Scholars are assigned to Residence Halls on the campus of Samford University.

Meals are provided in the University Dining Hall.

#### **ARE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AVAILABLE?**

Excellent facilities and a wide range of supervised recreational activities are available. Samford University has a superb indoor, Olympic-sized swimming pool, a gymnasium, field house, tennis courts, and playing fields. The Student Center, conveniently situated in the center of campus, boasts numerous special activity areas, as well as a contemporary food court.

#### **WHAT OTHER SERVICES ARE PROVIDED?**

Group health and accident insurance, medical services, dormitory counselors, campus public safety officers, and other support services are available throughout the program. Laundry services are also available at no charge.

#### **ARE STUDENTS ALLOWED LEAVE-OF-ABSENCE FROM THE SCHOOL?**

The Alabama Governor's School is concentrated and intensive. Classes, guest speakers, performers, film programs, sports, social activities, and a number of special events are scheduled for the week. Absences overnight or from scheduled activities, except in extenuating circumstances, are strongly discouraged. Students accepting selection are expected to register at the beginning of the program, remain in residence for the duration, and participate

in the concluding ceremonies.

#### **WHAT ARE SOME OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT THE STUDENTS MUST ASSUME?**

As voluntary members of a community of learning that seeks to establish a high moral and ethical standard for its common activities, and chooses to emphasize values studied in its curriculum, participants are expected to show respect at all times for the rights of others and to conform to the code of behavior as outlined in the Student Handbook of Samford University.

#### **WHERE MAY FURTHER INFORMATION BE OBTAINED?**

Further information may be obtained from:

Director:  
George E. Keller, Ph.D.  
Alabama Governor's School  
Samford University 800  
Lakeshore Drive  
Birmingham, AL  
35229-3742

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[gekeller@samford.edu](mailto:gekeller@samford.edu)  
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<http://alabamags.org/>

## CRITERIA FOR STUDENT NOMINATION AND SELECTION

### DEMOGRAPHY:

- X Student resides in or attends secondary school in Alabama.
- X Student is enrolled in the eleventh grade of a secondary school, is of comparable age and home-schooled, or will be a high school senior next year.
- X Student has the ability, maturity, desire, and willingness to handle difficult situations successfully with advanced academic concepts, materials and activities.
- X Student has a positive attitude toward the exploration of new and/or different concepts and areas of study.
- X Student has the ability to analyze and synthesize interrelationships between broad areas of the humanities, arts, and sciences.
- X Student can adjust to being away from home for an extended period of time and will commit to participate in the full two-week-long program. The brevity and intensity of the program preclude exceptions.

### PERFORMANCE:

<p>1. <u>Preference will be given to students who have achieved at least one of the following:</u></p> <p>a) A composite score of 120 or above on either the Leiter International Performance Scale, the Raven Standard Progressive Matrices Intelligence Test, the Stanford-Binét Intelligence Scale, or the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children within the past five years. or</p> <p>b) A composite score of 25 on the American College Test (ACT) within the past two years. or</p> <p>c) A selection index score of 170 on the P.S.A.T. within the past two years. or</p> <p>d) A score of 1650 on the S.A.T. within the past two years.</p>	<p>2. <u>Student exhibits at least <b>two</b> of the following:</u></p> <p>a) Specific Academic Aptitude. Student excels in one or more academic areas, such as history, mathematics, science, language, etc.</p> <p>b) Fine and/or Performing Arts. Student excels in one or more of the fine and/or performing arts.</p> <p>c) Creative or Productive Thinking Ability. Student exhibits advanced insight, intense reasoning ability, and skill in problem-solving and critical thinking.</p> <p>d) Leadership Ability. Student assumes responsibility within a group, helps the group move toward achievement of its goals, and constructively influences the ideas and actions of other group members.</p>
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The Alabama Governor's School is open to qualified residents of the state, regardless of race, color, sex, handicap, economic status, or national or ethnic origin.