

# AMERICAN EXPLORERS 2020 RECOMMENDATION FORM



**TO BE COMPLETED BY A TEACHER, COACH, MENTOR, PASTOR, COUNSELOR, ETC.**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Person Completing Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

School, Youth Agency, etc: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to student, e.g., teacher, counselor, coach, etc.: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommender's Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommender's E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known student? \_\_\_\_\_

On a scale of 1 to 10, rate how well you know student? "10" means "extremely well". \_\_\_\_\_

Dear VIP,

American Explorers' mission is to prepare, shape and empower Westside youth to live a productive life and career, and become effective leaders and change agents in their communities.

Created by The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, in partnership with Atlanta Public Schools, community-based organizations and the North Carolina Outward Bound School, American Explorers comprehensive leadership development program gives youth from Atlanta's Historic Westside community's pathways to leadership. Through a collection of programs and hands-on learning experiences, American Explorers youth become change agents, educators, community builders, entrepreneurs and stewards of their communities. American Explorers' progressive leadership development program involves year-round opportunities and activities for participants to engage in school and community service projects, leadership cultivation, and collaborative opportunities. Participation requires youth to meet annual benchmarks and to identify opportunities to improve themselves, their home, school and community i.e., their Circles of Influence.

American Explorers is looking for a diverse group of young people who meet qualifications in two essential areas: 1) Potential to lead; and 2) Commitment to see the four year process through. Students come to American Explorers through a nomination process. Students must currently be in the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) grade and reside in one of the Atlanta's Westside neighborhood zip codes of 30310, 30311, 30314 or 30318.

Students who meet these qualifications and submit a completed program application are invited to participate in an interview. The interview day consists of teambuilding initiatives and an individual two-on-one interview with current American Explorers designed to gauge the degree to which a student possess these qualifications.

We sincerely thank you for taking the time to complete the forms. The information you provide is critical to the selection process in the student becoming part of the American Explorers program. Thank you for your help!

Best regards,

  
Program Manager

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TO BE COMPLETED BY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR.**

Please respond by placing an "x" in the appropriate box	All the Time	Sometimes	Not at All
<b>Strong Academic Ability:</b> Student has an average grade of C or higher, and is excited about learning. Conduct and effort mirrors that of a leader.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
<b>Have Responsible Interactions with Adults and Peers:</b> Student must be able to live, work and play in a group setting. Our time is devoted to leadership, not dealing with inappropriate behavior	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
<b>Involved in Extracurricular Activities:</b> Successful nominees are likely to have a track record of regular participation in extracurricular activities (clubs, athletics, faith-based activities, etc.)	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
<b>Is Recognized for Achievement and Contributions:</b> The youth has been recognized for his/her leadership role, and is dedicated to developing personal skills and talents.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
<b>Highly Motivated to be a Leader:</b> Wants to be a leader; has a strong interest in making him/herself, his/her family, his/her school and his/her community better.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
<b>Likely to Make American Explorers a Priority:</b> Student understands that American Explorers is much more than "camp" and who sees the opportunity as a long-term investment in his/her future.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
<b>Maturity and Mental Readiness:</b> Positive participation is essential to success; the student has a positive attitude, emotional maturity, and is able to work productively with others	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
<b>Would be Prepared for Outdoor Living and Challenging Activities:</b> Outward Bound's 22-day outdoor leadership program may be the hardest thing the student has ever done. It's mentally, physically and socially challenging. Is student prepared to take on challenges in his/her life?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

Please take a moment to describe why you think this student would be a good candidate for the American Explorers program. Please attach additional sheets if necessary.

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**Upon completion, please fax to 866-888-2237 or email to [knuri@americanexplorers.org](mailto:knuri@americanexplorers.org), and return original to student to be included in application.**

**In doing so, you certify that the facts contained are true and complete to the best of your knowledge. Falsified statements on this document will automatically eliminate any opportunity for consideration.**

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## American Explorers Selection Criterion

American Explorers is looking for a diverse group of young people who meet qualifications in many qualitative areas:

- **Academic Ability**
  - Average Grade of C or higher. More interested in conduct and effort.
  - Students who are excited about learning.
- **Responsible Interactions with Peers and Adults**
  - Youth must be able to live, work, and play in a group setting. We recognize teens are working to develop these skills at this stage, but we also expect that our time is devoted to leadership development and not to dealing with inappropriate behavior.
- **Involved in Organizations & Extracurricular Activities**
  - Successful nominees are likely to have a successful track-record of *regular* participation in extracurricular activities.
- **Recognized for Achievements & Contributions**
  - Although not a requirement, youth who have been recognized for accomplishments.
- **Highly Motivated to be a Leader**
  - Have a strong interest in making themselves, their family, their school and their communities better.
  - Demonstrate high personal standards and commitment to developing skills.
- **Likely to Make American Explorers a Priority**
  - Youth who understand that American Explorers is much more than “camp” and who see the opportunity as a long-term investment in their future.
- **Maturity & Mental Readiness**
  - Possess positive attitude, emotional maturity, and being able to work productively with others.
- **Prepared for Outdoor Living & Challenging Activities**
  - Outward Bound’s 22 day outdoor leadership program may be the hardest thing a first year American Explorer has ever done. Student needs to be prepared for challenges.

It is very important to us not only that we select worthy students, but that those students have the support of their academic institutions behind them. Therefore, we ask for the endorsement of said student before we consider their application. Please read and sign the statement below:

I have read the American Explorers objectives included in this packet and confirm that \_\_\_\_\_ is a good candidate to uphold those criteria. Therefore, I give my full support and endorsement of student in becoming an American Explorer.

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Signed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Position Held

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TO BE COMPLETED BY A SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Person Completing Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommender's Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommender's E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known student you are recommending? \_\_\_\_\_

On a scale of 1 to 10, rate how well you know student? "10" means "extremely well". \_\_\_\_\_

Dear School Administrator,

American Explorers' mission is to prepare, shape and empower Westside youth to live a productive life and career, and become effective leaders and change agents in their communities.


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Program Manager