

Rogers Explorers Program Overview:

The Rogers Explorers program is an intensive three-day, two-night program focusing on developing skills in leadership, technology, math, science, and community service. It is developed, coordinated, and supervised by The Center for Rural Development in partnership with The University of the Cumberlands, Lindsey Wilson College, Eastern Kentucky University, and Morehead State University. Students from The Center's 45-county service area may apply during their eighth-grade year. If selected through a competitive process, they will attend the program in Williamsburg, Columbia, Morehead, **or** Richmond during the summer before their ninth-grade year. All lodging, meals, and program expenses (with the exception of transportation to and from the program) are **free to the student**. Activities throughout the program are both educational and fun. Classroom activities are very hands-on, so don't expect to be bored! Explorers are able to participate in hands-on college courses, fine-tune leadership skills, and develop a network of friends and resources throughout our Southern and Eastern Kentucky region.

Eligibility/Selection Process:

To be eligible to apply for the Rogers Explorers program, you must:

- ❑ Be a current eighth-grader located within The Center's 45-County Service Area.
- ❑ Have a strong interest in developing skills in leadership, technology, math, science, and community service.
- ❑ Have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4-point scale). *If your GPA is less than 3.0, you may submit a letter from your guidance counselor explaining any special circumstances that may have affected your GPA and/or why you should be considered for the Rogers Explorers program regardless of your GPA.*

A total of 120 students from the identified counties will be selected for the program in 2013, with 30 students participating on the campus of University of the Cumberlands, 30 students participating on the campus of Lindsey Wilson College, 30 students participating on the campus of Morehead State University, and 30 students participating on the campus of Eastern Kentucky University. A selection committee consisting of staff from The Center for Rural Development will be established. In order to ensure fairness, applications will be numbered and applicant names removed prior to distributing copies to the selection committee. The committee will review and score all of the applications according to the criteria and point values established for each section. The two applicants with the highest scores in each county will be selected as that county's representatives. After those 90 selections are made, the highest 30 scores of the remaining applicants will also be selected as Rogers Explorers. As a result, some schools and/or counties will have more than two representatives. Every applicant remaining after the first 120 selections will be considered an alternate, and will be ranked from the highest to lowest score. If a selected Explorer is unable to attend the program, the alternates will be contacted in order of their rank until the open spot is filled. For this reason, all applicants are encouraged to keep the program dates and the possibility of selection in mind as they make their plans for the summer. If there is a specific campus that you would prefer to attend, please make note of that on your application.

2013 Rogers Explorers Program Dates:
June 2-4 at Lindsey Wilson College in Columbia
June 5-7 at University of the Cumberland in Williamsburg
July 21-23 at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond
July 24-26 at Morehead State University in Morehead

Please type or print legibly and complete ALL requested information. If there is a question that doesn't apply to you, please put "N/A" rather than leaving the space blank. Applications are scored in five different areas, with the number of available points for each area indicated in the header of that section. The maximum number of points an application may receive is 100. Please make sure that all required attachments are sent in the same envelope as your application (references, transcripts, etc.).

Section I. Personal Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____

Zip Code: _____ School: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Adult T-Shirt Size: _____ Gender: Male Female

Cell Phone: _____

Parents/Legal Guardians: _____

Parent/Guardian Work Phone(s): _____

Rank your preference of campus location: (1 being first preference and 4 being last)

- June 2-4 at Lindsey Wilson College
- June 5-7 at University of the Cumberland
- July 21-23 at Eastern Kentucky University
- July 24-26 at Morehead State University
- No preference-I would be happy at any location

Section II. Extracurricular Activities (20 Points)

Extracurricular Activities are defined as school-related activities in which you participate in addition to your regular classroom work. These include school-sponsored clubs, organizations, associations, programs, and athletic teams.

Please list your extracurricular activities below. Write the full name of any activity that has an acronym (i.e. write *Student Technology Leadership Program* instead of *STLP*). If you have a leadership position or role in any of the activities, please describe that role/position.

Leadership:

Technology:

Community Service (School-sponsored):

Math and Science:

Section III. Community Service Activities (10 Points)

Community Service Activities are defined as those activities that involve your time and volunteer efforts for a community-related group or project (not school-related). These include time you put into helping civic organizations, doing community-related church activities, working as a volunteer, or contributing to other community-minded activities. Clubs/organizations/associations you are involved in that are not school-related should be listed here.

Section IV. Written Essay (50 points)

Using the following guidelines, prepare a written essay on a separate sheet(s) of white 8½” x 11” paper and submit it with your application. The essay will be scored based on: content, creativity, spelling, grammar, insightfulness, and how well the essay addresses the program’s areas of focus.

The essay must:

- be a minimum of one (1) and a maximum of two (2) typewritten pages, double-spaced.
- be completed using 12 point Times New Roman font.
- utilize page margins of 1” on the left, right, top, and bottom of every page.
- be identified by indicating the student’s first and last name as the first line of text.

You should spend considerable time preparing your essay, as it is worth 50% of your overall score. It is critical to adhere to the essay guidelines. **Failure to follow the guidelines will result in an automatic 10-point deduction.**

Essay Topic

Your essay must be written to address the following topic:

“In your opinion, how can math and science skills contribute to the long-term sustainability of Southern and Eastern Kentucky? Why is this so important to your home county?”

Section V. Letters of Recommendation/Character Assessment (5 Points)

Please submit two (2) letters of recommendation with your application. One (1) of the letters must be written by an individual who is employed by the school system you attend, and one (1) letter must be written by someone from your community who is *not* employed by the school system. Family members or relatives may not write letters of recommendation.

Section VI. Academic Performance (15 Points)

You must submit a current school transcript along with your program application. Your cumulative grade point average (unweighted by your school) will be utilized to assess a score on academic performance. Applicants should have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4-point scale.

NOTE TO GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

A current copy of the student’s transcript must be submitted with the application in order to be considered for the program. Please provide contact information should we have questions regarding the transcript.

Counselor’s Name: _____ School Phone: _____

I hereby certify that the information I have provided with this application is accurate and correct, and that the essay I have submitted is my original work. **If selected, I agree that I will actively participate in the program for its full duration, and I will abide by the Rogers Explorers Code of Conduct.**

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parental Consent

As parent or legal guardian of the student named on this application, I hereby give my consent for the release of his/her school records to those individuals who manage the Rogers Explorers Program and all those involved in the selection process.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

DEADLINE: ALL ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN MARCH 4th.

Any applications postmarked or sent by alternate means after this deadline will not be accepted.

Mail your completed application and necessary attachments to:

Rogers Explorers Program
The Center for Rural Development
2292 S. Highway 27, Suite 300
Somerset, Kentucky 42501

If you have questions, please contact Delaney Stephens at The Center for Rural Development at 606-677-6000 or via email at dstephens@centertech.com.



The Center for Rural Development
2292 South Highway 27, Suite 300
Somerset, Kentucky 42501
Telephone: (606) 677-6000
Facsimile: (606) 677-6010
Website: www.centertech.com

November 1, 2012

To: Supporters of Rogers Explorers Candidates
From: Lonnie Lawson
Subject: Recommendation Letter Guidelines

Dear Madam or Sir:

The student who has presented you this letter is asking you to write a letter of recommendation on their behalf as they apply for the *Rogers Explorers Program* through The Center for Rural Development. If selected, the student will be participating in a two-night, three-day program that takes place at one of four college campuses during the summer following their eighth-grade year in middle school. A total of 120 students will be selected for the program in 2013, representing communities all across our 45-county service area of Southern and Eastern Kentucky. The program, whose namesake is Congressman Hal Rogers, is very prestigious, and it is quite an honor to be selected.

The Rogers Explorers Program seeks to build the future leaders of our region and encourages students to have an increased commitment to rural Southeastern Kentucky. **The program is focused around leadership, community service, science, and math.** Students applying to the program should have a strong interest in these focus areas. In your letter of recommendation, please tell us how you have seen the student demonstrate skills and interest in these four areas of focus and why you think they would be a good representative of your community.

Learning more about The Center for Rural Development and our Rogers Explorers Program would certainly be helpful as you write your letter of recommendation. You may do so by visiting our website at www.centertech.com. Please call us anytime at (606) 677-6000 if you have questions or would like to receive information by mail. Thank you for taking the time to support the student who is striving to be selected for our program.

Sincerely,

Lonnie Lawson
President & CEO