



Drexel Environmental Science Leadership Academy



Student Handbook

2014

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About the Student Handbook

Drexel's Environmental Science Leadership Academy is an exciting opportunity for ambitious, adventurous high school students interested in environmental science and field research. This handbook covers the details of the program and will serve as a reference for you and your parents as you prepare for the fun, busy week at Barneget Bay. It includes information on what to bring and what to expect, from group excursions to the logistics of room and board.

About Drexel's Environmental Science Leadership Academy

Mission

Drexel's Environmental Science Leadership Academy seeks to fully engage students in hands-on research, to mature students' leadership abilities, and to open doors to a future in environmental science and related fields.

Program Goals

- To expose students to a diverse range of research areas within environmental science.
- To impart a broad understanding of what it takes to be a leader in the field.
- To challenge students on an intellectual level through experiential learning and hands-on research.
- To create a supportive environment in which students can form meaningful connections to fellow students and college faculty.

Our Expectations of You

We expect you to be an active participant and that the intellectual curiosity that got you accepted to this program will help you gain the most from all DESLA has to offer. We expect you to share freely your ideas, your opinions and your knowledge with others. We expect you to push yourself and to take intellectual risks. We expect you to be receptive to new ideas but at the same time to think critically and to question premises. We urge you to enjoy and take full advantage of your time with the faculty, staff and students of DESLA.

Campus Life

DESLA scholars are housed in gender-separate residence halls at the Lighthouse Center in Barnegat Bay, New Jersey. Each room has two single beds. Communal bathrooms are shared by two rooms (four DESLA scholars) and are gender-separate.

Cell phones, Laptops, iPads, etc.

Cell phones, iPads and other electronic devices are permitted during designated hours and in designated locations, which will be discussed on the first day of the program. During field trips, lectures and workshops, phones should be kept off.

Internet Access

Wi-Fi is available.

Roommates

Roommate assignments will be announced upon arrival. To ensure that DESLA students take advantage of the opportunity to meet new people, we do not take room assignment requests.

Faculty and Residential Staff

The DESLA residential staff have been carefully selected and thoroughly trained in CPR and First Aid. A staffing ratio of 1 staff member per 8 students (maximum) is maintained during lights-out hours. During the day, that ratio will be much lower: for many of the field trips, students will be split into smaller groups, with a faculty to student ratio of about 1:4. For activities involving all students, the ratio will be 1:5 at the highest.

The DESLA Residence Assistants (RAs) will live on the floors with DESLA scholars and work with them to encourage positive social interaction, scholarship, and well-being. The RAs are available to assist students with any problems or concerns.

Kitchen Amenities

Meals will be provided at DESLA. However, if scholars would like to bring snacks, there is a refrigerator and microwave available on the premises.

What to Bring & What to Leave Behind

Linens, bath towels and field supplies will be provided by DESLA, unless noted below. Please note: there are no student laundry facilities at the Barnegat Bay Field Station

Dress Code

The dress code at DESLA is casual. It is strongly recommended to dress in layers so as to prepare for changes in temperature, sun exposure and moisture.

Required Items

- Pillow and pillow case
- Long Sleeve T-shirt (4)
- Long Pants (2)
- Rain Gear
- Sweatshirt (2)
- Shorts (3)
- T-Shirts (12)
- Bathing Suit
- Beach towel
- Toiletries
- Hiking Shoes
- Sandals or sneakers for time spent at Lighthouse Center
- Socks (5 pair)
- Water Shoes – water sandals/ old pair of sneakers
- Hat (wide-brim hat or baseball cap)
- Sunglasses
- Insect Repellant
- Sunblock
- Water Bottle (2) (1L capacity each)
- Required medications/ prescriptions * **indicate on medical form**
- EpiPen/ Inhaler (as necessary)
- Flashlight/ Headlamp with extra batteries
- Notebook and Pencils

Recommended Items

- Binoculars
- Camera
- Laptop
- Graphing Calculator
- Spending Money (keep in a secure location)
- Old Backpack

Optional Items

- Sketch Pad/ Art Supplies
- Musical Instrument
- iPad
- Field Guides
- Frisbee
- Board games
- Snacks

Spending Money

All meals and activities are covered in the DESLA tuition cost, but students may want to bring some spending money for souvenirs and other incidental expenses. Although we do not suggest any specific amount, students should likely not need more than \$50 for the week.

What to Leave Behind

- By DESLA policy, scholars are prohibited from bringing a car, bicycle, unicycle, rollerblades, roller skates, skateboards, or other wheeled recreational devices.
- Pets are not permitted.
- Candles, incense and other flammable materials are not permitted.
- Gaming systems (not including phones, tablets or laptops) are not permitted.
- Jewelry and other valuables are to be brought at your own risk. If an item is irreplaceable, please leave it at home. Neither Drexel University nor the Lighthouse Center will be responsible for lost, stolen or broken items.
- Large sums of money. Most of DESLA is already paid for so don't bring too much cash!

A Typical Week at DESLA

**Program content and sequence may change due to weather, staff schedules or other circumstances.*

Day 1

- 1PM-3PM: Arrival and check in, room assignments, unpacking, tour of the facilities
- 3PM: Orientation – overview, facilities, conduct, safety, introduction of staff and students
Introduction to the Pine Barrens
- 5PM: Dinner
- 6:30PM: Evening Program – Mock Town Meeting Activity – Energy and the Estuary

Day 2

- 7:30AM: Breakfast
- All-Day Canoe Trip: Ecology of the Pine Barrens – Fauna and Flora
- 5PM: Dinner
- 6:30PM: Lecture – Coastal Ecology of New Jersey
- Evening Activity: Night Hikes

Day 3

- 7:30AM: Breakfast
- Estuarine Studies of Barnegat Bay (1/2 group)
- Boat Trip, Marsh Study, Fish Seining, Benthic Exploration (1/2 group)
- Lunch: 12PM
- Groups switch activities
- 5PM: Dinner
- 6:30PM: Evening program – Amphibians of the Pine Barrens
- Field Trip (1/2 group)
- Movie Night: “The Big Year” and plankton sampling (1/2 group)

Day 4

- 7:30AM: Breakfast
- All Day and Evening Activities are the same as Day 3 – student groups switch activities

Day 5

- 7:30AM: Breakfast
- Travel to Inversand Mine – Paleontology
- Lunch: Pack lunch in the Field
- Pine Barrens Ecology at Warren Grove
- 5PM: Dinner
- 6:30PM: Lecture – Shorebirds and Citizen Science

Day 6

- 7:30AM: Breakfast
- Shorebird Study at North Brigantine
- Population, Disturbance and Invertebrate Collection in Swash Zone (1/2 group)
- Lunch: Pack lunch in the Field
- Repeat AM study – other group (* free time in AM or PM)
- 5PM: Dinner
- 6:30PM: Lecture – Invertebrate Ecology
- Set pitfall traps
- 8:00PM: Music, Dance and other Creative Endeavors

Day 7

- 7:30AM: Breakfast
- Invertebrate studies
- 12PM: Lunch and Farewell (parents invited to lunch)

DESLA Code of Conduct

Use common sense. Respect others. Ask questions. Keep an open mind. Manage your time effectively. Look out for one another. Accept criticism so that you may benefit from it. Try your hardest. Seek help when you need it. Endeavor to get along with others.

DESLA POLICIES & PROCEDURES

All DESLA policies and rules are in effect for the duration of the program, whether students are on or off campus. Please familiarize yourself with policies prior to your arrival at DESLA.

1. **ATTENDANCE and PUNCTUALITY:** Students are expected to attend and participate in regularly scheduled lectures, field trips, workshops, etc. Students are expected to arrive on time for all scheduled activities.
2. **VISITORS and GUESTS** are not allowed to attend any program events or classes except lunch on the final day of the program.
3. **CURFEW, QUIET HOURS:** The Lighthouse Center is located in a rural area. Students are expected to remain in designated buildings at all times, unless participating in a supervised activity (see aerial view below). A curfew is established each night by the program director. The program establishes quiet hours each night. Students wishing to listen to music during this time must do so with headphones.



4. **RESPECTING THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS:** Students are expected to exercise mature judgment in respecting the rights of others. Good manners during classes, presentations, field trips and all program activities are expected. Quiet hours in the residence halls are to be respected.
5. **TOBACCO & ALCOHOL USE:** Tobacco and alcohol use by DESLA scholars is prohibited for the duration of the program, from the point of arrival to the point of departure. This is state law. Students found using tobacco or alcohol will be expelled from the program.
6. **LIGHTHOUSE STATION PROPERTY AND POLICIES:** Students may not damage or alter the walls, floors, ceilings and furnishings in any campus facilities, including the residential halls, dining hall and classrooms. Students may not change furnishings from room to room. Students and their families will be held financially responsible for the costs of damage to or loss of Lighthouse property.
7. **CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION:** Residential assistants are responsible for resolving any residential life problems that may arise during the program. Students should feel free to approach any Residential Life staff member with a problem.
8. **EXPULSION:** A student will be expelled promptly for any of the following reasons: possessing or using alcoholic beverages; possessing or using illegal drugs; entering an establishment whose primary purpose is to serve alcoholic beverages, unless accompanied by a parent or legal guardian; stealing; violent behavior; behavior that is considered potentially harmful to oneself and/or to others; malicious damage to property; possession of weapon(s); leaving the program without permission; leaving the dormitory after curfew; violations of tobacco and alcohol use policy or curfew policy, or other serious violations of program policies.

Residence Hall Policies and Procedures

- DESLA residence halls are gender-separate. Only DESLA students and assigned program staff may enter the bathing/living areas.
- Quiet hours are set by the DESLA staff on a night-by-night basis. No loud music is to be played or other loud noise created during these hours. Quiet hours will be explained by your RA when you arrive on campus.
- Students may not have non-DESLA guests in the residence halls. Students may not play ball games or throw Frisbees or other projectiles in the residence halls.
- Pets are not permitted in the residence halls.
- Fire procedures will be explained upon arrival.
- Male students are not allowed in the women's dorm rooms, and vice versa.
- DESLA reserves the right to have authorized staff members enter any student's room without notice if reasonable cause suggests regulations are being violated or in the event of an emergency.
- DESLA RAs are responsible for resolving any living problems that arise during the program or for referring them to the appropriate authority. Families and/or outside friends may visit ONLY during designated times.

Contact Information for Parents/Guardians

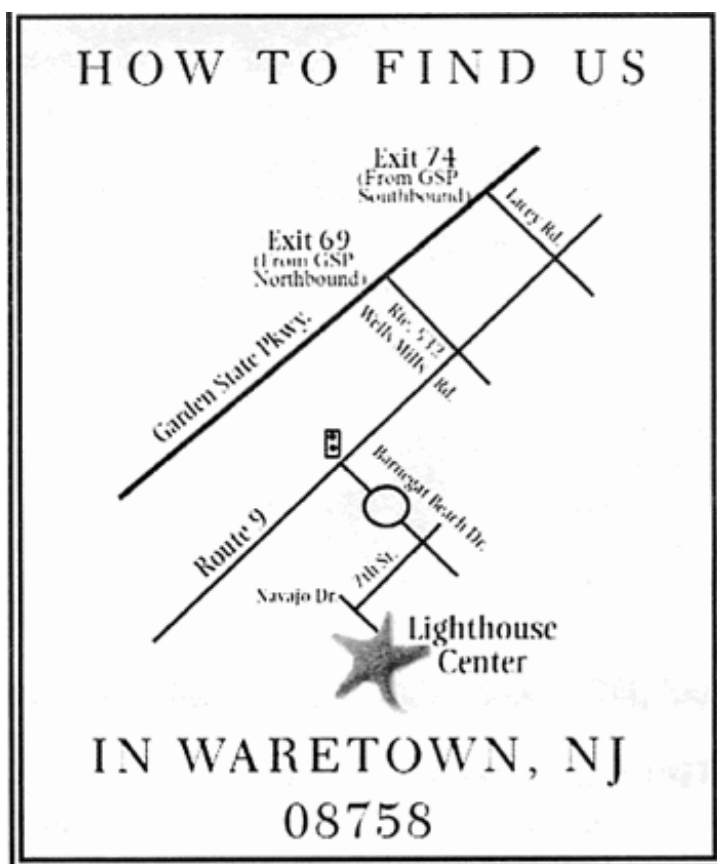
For parents/guardians whose child does not have a cell phone, you may contact DESLA staff at the Lighthouse Center in one of the following ways

By phone: 609-698-8003

By email: desla@drexel.edu

Directions to the Lighthouse Center

Address: 7th St & Navajo Drive,
Waretown, New Jersey 08758



From the South

- Take Garden State Parkway North to Exit 69 (Waretown/Wells Mills Road – Route 532).
- Turn right (East) onto Route 532.
- Follow Route 532 to traffic light. (You will see a WaWa on the right-hand corner.)
- Turn right (South) at the traffic light onto Route 9.
- After approximately .6 miles, you will come to a traffic light at Barnegat Beach Drive (just past the L&H store and across from Lighthouse Tavern).
- Take the third left onto Barnegat Beach Drive.
- After 200 feet, turn right to stay on Barnegat Beach Drive.
- After .2 miles, turn right to stay on Barnegat Beach Drive.
- Travel around small circle and make the first right onto 7th St.
- Make the second left onto Navajo Drive.
- The camp entrance is straight ahead through the gate.
- Follow dirt road until you see buildings. Stay to the right and park in the field.

From the North

- Take Garden State Parkway South to Exit 69 (Waretown/Wells Mills Road – Route 532).
Turn Right – East.
- Follow directions above.

DESLA Parent & Scholar Handbook Agreement

Parent Agreement

I have received and read the DESLA Student Handbook, including all policies and procedures. I agree to abide by the policies, procedures and guidelines outlined herein.

Parent Name (Please Print)

Parent Signature

Date

Student Agreement

I have received and read the DESLA Student Handbook, including all policies and procedures. I agree to abide by the policies, procedures and guidelines outlined herein.

Student Name (Please Print)

Student Signature

Date