



New Jersey Academy for Aquatic Sciences

Community and Urban Science Enrichment Program (CAUSE) (Frequently Asked Questions)

What is the CAUSE Program?

The Camden Aquarium Urban Science Enrichment Program (CAUSE) is a program for high school youth that attend high schools in and around Camden City. It is a work experience (job) designed to provide meaningful experiences in science and education, to promote science literacy and to provide educational and/or employment opportunities to Camden City's youth. (visit: <http://www.njaas.org/Community/CAUSE.html>) for more information.

How do I become a part of the CAUSE program?

You must be in high school, grades 9-12, and attend one of the following schools.

- Camden High School
- Camden Academy Charter High School
- Charles E. Brimm Medical Arts High School
- Camden County Tech Vocational School (Pennsauken only)
- J.D.T. Christian Academy
- L.E.A.P. Academy University High School
- Met East High School
- Pennsauken High School
- Woodrow Wilson High School

I attend one of the specified high schools, how do I apply?

1. You can attend one of our information sessions held at your school in Late September or October. Listen for announcements. During the session, you will be given a brochure and application. Once your application is complete you can return it to your school or mail it to us. Mail completed applications to attn: CAUSE Program, New Jersey Academy for Aquatic Sciences, 1 Riverside Drive, Camden, NJ 08103.
2. You can also download and print an application and recommendation form from our website, complete and mail in to above address.
3. You can complete and submit an application online. **Recommendation forms can be printed out and mailed in by you or your teacher. A recommendation form MUST be received to consider application complete.** Use above address to mail forms.

Is there an interview process?

Yes. Once CAUSE Staff receives your application, it will be reviewed. Based on your application, we may call you to set up an interview. All program participants are required to bring in a parent or guardian during the interview.

I've been accepted into the program, what happens now?

Congratulations, you have been accepted. All accepted participants must attend and complete a 15-20 week training course on oceanography, animal classification, marine biology, and public presentation and customer service skills. Training will consist of session lectures, weekly quizzes, quarterly tests, a final exam, and an oral practical. All participants must receive a 75% or more final average to pass the training portion of the program.

In addition to science training, all participants are required to attend mandatory weekly professional and personal life skills meetings/workshops. Workshop topics can include teambuilding, communication skills, diversity, inquiry-based learning and college preparation. **Weekend work is required.**

What happens after training?

1st year program participants will continue their life skills training, be introduced to level one animal handling, and research, develop and facilitate a summer science camp curriculum for the CAUSE Summer Camp.

2nd, 3rd, and 4th year participants will gain more responsibilities as they progress through the program. Other work includes but not limited to community service projects, teaching Ecology Club, writing for the Junior Staff newsletter and yearbook, facilitating weekly meetings and workshops, and assisting other full-time Education Staff with their programming such as deep sleeps, and in house and outreach programming. Staff will work up to level 2,3, or 4 animal handling.

All program participants are required to attend mandatory weekly meetings/workshops for the duration of the program.

Do CAUSE participants travel?

Yes. CAUSE participants take trips throughout the year. We may visit other aquariums, zoos, science museums and colleges.

Each year, program participants will take a field excursion outside of the state for hands-on field work and techniques training. Visit (<http://www.njaas.org/Community/CAUSE.html>) to see a slide of show of this past year's field excursion.

How much time would I need to commit to the program?

The program begins each November and ends in August of the following year. You will work approximately 9-20 hours per week during the school year and approximately 28-32 hours during July and August.

You may participate in the program each year you are in high school. Returning program participants are required to go through a re-interview each year they wish to participate in the program.

Can I participate in the CAUSE Program after I graduate high school?

Yes. There are summer opportunities for graduates of the program. Graduates may interview for a Senior Counselor position and assist current participants with their summer camp curriculum development. Senior Counselors also assist with after-school programming during the school year.

Will I be paid?

Program participants in training are not paid. They are considered volunteers and will be credited with their volunteer hours. After training, program participants will be paid for the duration of their time in the program.

Will I receive school credit for participating in this program?

Currently, we do not offer school credit for participants however; we are working hard to make this happen.

Recruitment

We will begin recruitment in late September and early October. Listen for announcements at your school to attend our information sessions.

I have more questions!

If you have more questions, please contact the CAUSE Program Team at 856.361.1019 or email:cause@njaas.org