

Hi there! We're so excited you're applying to Sternberg Science Camps! This document was put together to help you write your cover letter, and make it the best final product possible. Please keep in mind that even if you do everything outlined in this document, you may not get accepted (this year) to camp. We do read every letter, and consider each application thoughtfully. However, your chances will be much better if you follow these guidelines.

- 1) Follow the basic instructions.
 - a) High school: Your letter should be around two pages, or 5-7 paragraphs. (All applicants.)
 - b) Middle school: Your letter should be around one page, or 2-3 paragraphs. (All applicants.)
 - c) Elementary school: Your letter should be one paragraph, or 3-4 sentences. (Only required for scholarship applicants.)
 - d) Upload your letter into your application on [CampDoc](#).
 - e) The letter should be written by the student applicant. Outside input is encouraged, but the student must be the primary writer.
 - f) All letters should be typed. We cannot accept hand-written letters.

- 2) Re-read and make corrections.
 - a) While we aren't looking for perfect english-class papers, your writing should be as free as possible of spelling, punctuation, and grammar mistakes. Effort counts!
 - b) We recommend you let your letter sit for a couple days after you think it's done, then re-read it looking for errors. Go slowly and carefully.
 - c) Have someone else you trust to give good feedback read it to find errors or parts that don't make sense. Consider their input, and make any necessary changes.
 - d) You should never submit your "first draft" of any writing as a final product. Even career professional writers go through numerous drafts and changes before submitting a final piece. The extra time will make your letter that much better.

- 3) Talk about why you want to come to camp!
 - a) Honestly, grades aren't super important to us. We want to know *why you* want to come to the camp(s) you are applying to!
 - b) Why do you find science interesting?
 - c) What kinds of questions do you have about science that you want to learn more about?
 - d) What are some cool discoveries that you have heard about that you find exciting?

- e) What future goals do you have, if any, involving science fields?
- f) Tell us about you! What are your hobbies? What non-science subjects do you enjoy in school? What kinds of things do you enjoy doing outside of the classroom?

We look forward to receiving your application letter! Please feel free to get in touch with us if you have any additional questions about the cover letter portion of the camp application.

Yours,
David Levering
Sternberg Science Camps Director