

Hi there! First of all, thank you for agreeing to write a letter of recommendation. We weigh these letters heavily in our admissions decisions, and we appreciate you taking the time to help the student you are writing for.

Below are a few things to consider when writing your letter. These are not specific questions you have to answer, so much as insights into general areas we like to know about when considering a student applicant. No single area is weighted more heavily than another.

1. Citizenship
 - a. How does the student interact with authority figures? Are they patient and polite? Do they ask for help or clarification when they need it? How do they approach solving problems they are faced with? How do they respond to constructively critical feedback?
2. Enthusiasm for academics
 - a. Is this subject all they talk about? Are they broadly interested in science, regardless of subject? Are they a dedicated, serious worker, even in topics that are difficult for them?
3. Leadership and teamwork
 - a. Is the student a leader among their peers? Are they a solid team player who works great with others towards a cooperative goal? Maybe both?? Are they a vocal force among peers? Are they more reserved but organized and effective? Do they lead by example?

In our camps, students are challenged constantly to drive personal growth, academic learning, and introspection. Having rec letters that honestly and insightfully outline a student's strengths, weaknesses, enthusiasms, and exploits are valuable to how we consider each applicant.

You may notice we do not mention things like grades, or other specific indicators of academic mastery. We are far more interested in the character and motivations of our students. Science requires collaboration, innovation, and overcoming frequent obstacles. We strive to foster these qualities in our students during their time with us to help them become better scientists, and more successful individuals.

Rec letters should be submitted to us electronically at SternbergCamps@FHSU.edu. We appreciate it if you include a reachable phone number, in case we have any follow up questions.

Thank you again, and please feel free to get in touch if you have any questions.

Yours,
David Levering
Sternberg Science Camps Director