EDUCATOR RECOMMENDATION
Instructional Document
Regeneron Science Talent Search 2020

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS
Who should complete the Educator Recommendation?
- A high school teacher who has worked with you in a classroom setting. Preference should be given to science, engineering and/or math educators.

When is the Educator Recommendation due?
- The deadline for your Recommender to submit this form is Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 8pm Eastern Time. This deadline is now the same date and time as the student application deadline. We will be unable to accept materials, including recommendations, after this deadline.

How do I request my Educator Recommendation?
- Talk to or email your recommenders to ask them if they would be willing to complete a recommendation on your behalf. Let them know that they should anticipate an automated email from our online system-- the sender name will be "Regeneron Science Talent Search." Then request your Educator Recommendation through the online application system.
- We recommend that you request your recommendations the day you open your application to allow your recommenders plenty of time.
- It is your responsibility to remind your recommenders to submit their recommendations before the deadline. We cannot accept any portions of the application, including recommendations, after the application deadline.

How many Educator Recommendations should I request?
- Each applicant must request one Educator Recommendation, but may request up to two. Should you choose to request a second Educator Recommendation, you will find this option at the bottom of your Task List.
- Consider requesting multiple Educator Recommendations only if you believe each educator has something unique to say about your abilities. We encourage you to ask another supportive adult, like a coach or boss, to provide a recommendation as well.
- If you are a homeschool student and your parent is your only educator and completes an Educator Recommendation, we recommend that you request a second Educator Recommendation from a non-relative who knows you in an academic setting, even if not in the traditional classroom sense.

Other things to know about the Educator Recommendation:
- The Society no longer accepts PDF letters of recommendations. Recommenders are now required to answer a few short responses within the online form.

EDUCATOR RECOMMENDATION PREVIEW
Entrants must request that their Recommender complete this form in the online recommendation system. The questions below are asked in the online form.

1. Do you have a familial relationship with the student? Such a relationship is not disallowed Such a relationship is not disallowed under Regeneron STS rules, however it is important that it be disclosed.

      a. If so, please describe the relationship.
2. Have any of your former students entered and/or won awards in the Science Talent Search?
3. How long have you known this student and in what capacity? How does this student compare to students you currently teach and also to those you have known during your teaching career? (150 words max)
4. Please address, with specific examples if possible, the student's character and integrity, and describe any challenges he/she has overcome (200 words max)
5. Please describe your personal observation (if any) of the extracurricular involvement and/or leadership this student has demonstrated among his/her peers. Do not include activities you have not witnessed. Entrants are able to provide a full extracurricular list in their portion of the application. (200 words max)
6. Please summarize your observations and experience with this student and the qualities (s)he possesses that you believe would contribute to his/her future promise as a scientist, mathematician or engineer. Relevant topics include (but are not limited to) scientific attitude, curiosity, initiative, problem-solving, originality of thought, collegiality, and work ethic.
7. What level of mentorship have you provided the student with the STS application process and/or research project? Please explain your level of knowledge (if any) regarding the submitted research project and/or any other research projects conducted by this student during his/her high school career. Can you attest that the application and research project submitted in this application properly reflect his/her own work? (150 words max)
8. How would you rate this student against other high school students you have worked with in the past? Choose range from Top 1%, Top 5%, Top 10%, Top 25%, Top 50%, Other
9. How would you rate this student against other STS entrants you have worked with in the past? Choose range from Top 1%, Top 5%, Top 10%, Top 25%, Top 50%, Other

Ethics Agreement
    I certify that I have presented the full truth regarding the student researcher's experience in my classroom and have not presented false information. I understand that mentors of Regeneron STS entrants may not benefit financially based on the overall placement of entrants in the competition.

TROUBLESHOOTING ISSUES
Should your Recommender experience any issues with our online process, please encourage them to email sts@societyforscience.org. Once you request a recommendation from them through the online system, the Recommender should receive an email with instructions. Occasionally these messages are caught in junk mail or strict school email filters, or a recommender could receive requests from multiple students under different email addresses, causing confusion. We are happy to investigate any issues.