



SMASH Academy Application

Letters of Recommendation Information

To the candidate: This form should be completed by a math or science teacher who is familiar with your academic and extracurricular activities and achievements. We highly recommend that you request these letters from your current math and science teachers. If one of these persons is unavailable, however, we will accept a Letter of Recommendation from your high school counselor, in its place. Be sure to allow your teachers ample time to submit a letter of recommendation to you, in order for your SMASH application to be postmarked by the deadline of March 1, 2011.

To the recommender: This student is applying for admission to the Level Playing Field Institute's Summer Math & Science Honors (SMASH) Academy. They may also request a letter of recommendation from you electronically, through the online SMASH Application. If you would prefer to complete this form electronically, please give the student your current email address and have them complete the electronic letter of recommendation request within their SMASH Application. Please look out for the automated email request from *smashsupport@lpfi.org*.

What is SMASH?

SMASH...

- is a free five-week, 24/7 on-campus summer residential math and science enrichment program held at UC Berkeley and Stanford University
- is designed for high potential, low-income high-school students of color who excel in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM)
- prepares under-represented students to be competitive in STEM majors in college and beyond through:
 - (1) science, math, technology, and technical writing courses and hands-on laboratory experience
 - (2) college admissions and scholarship workshops, and
 - (3) STEM-focused field trips and speaker series

Who is a SMASH scholar?

A student who...

- is a high potential, low-income high-school student of color
- articulates and demonstrates a strong interest in STEM-related studies and career
- is capable of performing well in a rigorous academic program
- is working toward admission at selective colleges
- is mature/stable enough to live on campus for 5 weeks away from family
- demonstrates a sense of social responsibility through activities and projects

More information about the program is available www.lpfi.org/education/smash . If you have any questions, please contact Julian Martinez, Academic Director, at *julian@lpfi.org* or 415-946-3027.

SMASH Academy Application – Letter of Recommendation (To be returned to student)

Directions: Please fill out this form and type your short answer responses on a separate sheet of paper. Attach your response to this cover sheet and return to the applicant in a sealed and signed envelope. *Please note that any response that does not specifically answer the recommendation questions may jeopardize the candidate's consideration for enrollment into the SMASH Academy.* Thank you for your thoughtful feedback.

SMASH Academy 2011 Application deadline: March 1, 2011

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Student's Full Name: _____ School Name: _____

RECOMMENDER'S INFORMATION

Your Full Name: _____ Title (please be specific): _____

E-mail address (for official correspondence): _____

Business Phone #: _____ Length of acquaintance with candidate: _____

RECOMMENDATION QUESTIONS

Name of your math or science class in which candidate is/was enrolled: _____

Total number of students in your math or science class in which candidate is/was enrolled: _____

Please mark an X in the appropriate column.

Candidate's comparative ranking in the characteristics listed below :	Top 1% of class	Top 10% of class	Top 30% of class	Top 50% of class	Below 50% of class	No basis for judgment
<i>Demonstrates interest in math</i>						
<i>Demonstrates interest in science</i>						
<i>Math aptitude</i>						
<i>Science aptitude</i>						
<i>Creativity</i>						
<i>Honesty/Integrity</i>						
<i>Motivation</i>						
<i>Self-Discipline</i>						

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

On a separate sheet of paper, please respond to each question with 5-7 sentences of specific feedback.

1. How do you know the candidate?
2. Describe the candidate's enthusiasm and interest in math and/or science.
3. Describe a class or academic situation in which the candidate demonstrated exceptional intellectual curiosity, creativity, and/or leadership.
4. A typical SMASH day includes at least 6 hours of math and science course work and a two hour study session in the evening. Why do you believe the candidate has the maturity, focus, and motivation to excel in this kind of rigorous academic environment?
5. Although a candidate may have performed extremely well in his or her high school math and science classes, SMASH's ambitious curriculum truly challenges and may frustrate even the most promising "star" student. Why do you believe the candidate can excel even under such pressure, academic rigor, and competition?
6. How well do you believe the candidate's math and science background will have prepared them to compete in a class of top-notch math and science students from the Bay Area?
7. What academic considerations (i.e. learning disability, test anxiety, disruptive behavior, etc.) or social considerations (i.e. difficulties experienced in the home or with peers) should we be aware of or take into account?

AUTHORIZATION AND SIGNATURE

I certify that all information submitted in this form is my own work, factually true, and honestly presented. *All recommendations are subject to verification of authenticity without notice.*

Signature

Date