

AP Appendix 2111: Outdoor Education Academy Process and Selection Assessment Rubric

1. Students must apply for entrance into an Outdoor Learning Academy including the ATLAS program and the Valhalla Wilderness Program.
2. ATLAS Program students must have completed grade 11 and be in a position to graduate prior to application. Valhalla Wilderness Program applicants must have completed grade nine.
3. Principals at host schools for the ATLAS program and the Valhalla Wilderness Program will set and advertise a selection process, including this administrative procedure on their website.
4. Applicants for the Outdoor Academies will be completed by May 15 (ATLAS Program) and June 15 (Valhalla Wilderness Program) for the upcoming school year.
5. A selection committee for applicants will be assembled annually consisting of the Director of Instruction- Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, the school principal, and outdoor education teacher to review and determine successful applicants according to the established scoring criteria.
6. The following criteria are established and reviewed as part of the outdoor education academy application:

6.1 Program Intention

- Demonstrates a strong understanding of program and alignment of personal goals with program goals.
- Demonstrates enthusiasm and commitment.
- Demonstrates commitment to creating an environment that is socially and emotionally safe.

6.2 Physical and Medical Health

- Possesses the physical health that will ensure safe participation.
- Demonstrates ability to participate in a small group for a full semester while often off-site including many overnights.

6.3 Positive Character Reference (by non-family members)

- Exhibits responsibility, leadership and teamwork abilities.
- Shows respect for others and the environment.
- Demonstrates ability to face challenges constructively.
- Commits to engaging with and respecting diverse cultures and perspectives.

6.4 Risk Management, Adaptability and Coachability

- Displays willingness to learn and adapt to new skills.
- Perseveres through physical challenges.

- Shows coachability and ability to respond quickly to direction.
- Demonstrates safety awareness and risk management.

7. The following scoring criteria will be used to assess applications by the selection committee:

7.1 Program Intention

- (1-2) Minimal understanding or alignment with program objectives.
- (3-4) Basic understanding and some alignment with personal and program goals.
- (5-6) Strong understanding, alignment, and commitment to program objectives, including a deep appreciation to create an environment that is socially and emotionally safe.

7.2 Physical Fitness and Medical Health

- (1-2) Limited physical preparation.
- (3-4) Moderate preparation with willingness to make necessary adjustments.
- (5-6) High level of fitness/health, including an inclusive understanding of diverse health needs and adjustments.

6.3 Positive Character Reference

- (1-2) Shows basic respect and responsibility with limited evidence of leadership.
- (3-4) Good character references showing some leadership, teamwork, and adaptability.
- (5-6) Excellent references demonstrating strong leadership, respect for diversity and a commitment to fostering an environment of cultural safety and humility.

6.4 Risk Management, Adaptability & Coachability

- (1-2) Displays a basic interest in learning outdoor skills and activities, regardless of prior experience. Shows curiosity and a positive attitude toward engaging with outdoor education.
- (3-4) Demonstrates a readiness to adapt to new challenges and environments, showcasing resilience and an eagerness to grow. Exhibits an understanding of the importance of safety and preparedness in outdoor settings.
- (5-6) Shows potential for leadership in outdoor education settings through a strong sense of initiative, teamwork, and the ability to motivate others. Reflects a commitment to personal growth and the development of a supportive, inclusive outdoor community.