



West Virginia
**Governor's
School for Tourism**

2026 Student Application

Part II



June 20-June 29, 2026

QUALIFICATIONS

DO NOT COMPLETE PART II UNTIL YOU HAVE COMPLETED PART I

Required Qualifications:

- Complete Part I of the Application online located here:
<https://forms.office.com/r/jXdARG7Qp1>
- Attend high school in West Virginia and plan to be in attendance next year
- A resident of West Virginia
- A **freshman** or **sophomore** at the time of application
- Have a grade-point average of at least 3.0
- Must satisfy all immunization requirements set by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR). Nonpublic school and homeschool students must provide proof of immunizations.

Students may only attend GST once. If you attended in 2025, you may not apply for 2026.

General Information

- The state deadline for applications from the county superintendent is **Friday, May 1, 2026**. The school and county will have established deadlines to provide time for review of applications before making selections and sending their recommendations to the WVDE. Please check with the school counselor or principal to determine the deadline to submit Part II.
- Part II of the application (this form and all supporting documents as required within the application) are submitted directly to the school counselor.
- Copies of transcripts are required with the application. These documents will need to be provided by the school counselor.
- Within the application, you will be required to secure **two current teacher recommendations**. Please provide sufficient notice to your teachers prior to submitting the application.
- **IMPORTANT: WV Governor's Schools is a summer commitment for students. If you are selected to attend and you confirm your participation, we expect you to fully participate in the programs. If you decide to leave voluntarily during the school, you will not be permitted to apply for any other Governor's Schools in the future.**

If you have questions, please contact Dustin Lambert, WVDE State Coordinator of West Virginia Governor's Schools – dllambert@k12.wv.us or (304) 558-5325.

Student Demographic Information

First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____

Last Name: _____ Preferred First Name: _____

Birthdate: _____ County: _____

School: _____

Student's Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Student's Preferred Phone Number: _____ T-Shirt Size: _____

☐ Male ☐ Female

Are there lodging accommodations the college/university should consider? Please explain.

If there are additional dorm considerations, parents/guardians may contact Dustin Lambert, Governor's Schools Coordinator for further discussion at (304) 558-5325 or dllambert@k12.wv.us.

Student's K12 Email Address: _____

Student's Preferred/Secondary Email Address: _____

Parent/Guardian First and Last Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Preferred Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

Parent/Guardian 2 First and Last Name: _____

Parent/Guardian 2 Preferred Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian 2 Email Address: _____

Cumulative GPA: _____



Parent and Student Verification Form

Student's First and Last Name: _____

This form is to be printed and completed by both the student and a parent/guardian using blue or black ink. Please attach this document to the application when submitting to the school counselor.

The following assurances must be initialed by both a parent/guardian and the student to participate in the Governor's School for Tourism (GST) if selected by the state selection committee. Your initials confirm you agree with each statement.

West Virginia Governor's School for Tourism (GST)		
Student Initials	Parent/Guardian Initials	Please carefully read each statement before initialing.
		If selected, we agree to provide all requested medical (including prescriptions) and educational information to the GST Dean at West Virginia University.
		The GST program requires concerted academic focus, preparation, and motivation from all students. Participants are expected to demonstrate professionalism, self-discipline, and respect for self, others, the program, and the host institution.
		I consent to my son's/daughter's likeness, name, school, and hometown to appear in public media including newspapers, TV, radio, and the internet. Addresses and phone numbers may be printed in the student directory and shared with fellow GST scholars during the sessions.
		I certify that I am a resident of the state of West Virginia and that I attend a public, nonpublic, or homeschool within the state.
		I give permission to the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) to release my child's name, likeness, and contact information to institutions recognizing and/or supporting the GST program.
		If selected for GST, I agree to fully participate in GST from June 20-June 29, 2026. Failure to fully participate in all programs means you forfeit your ability to apply for future Governor's Schools.
		We agree to abide by the regulations of the West Virginia Governor's School for Tourism and West Virginia University, including a mask mandate if required. Your initials also indicate an understanding that students who do not follow the rules will be sent home.
		Student records and applications are retained by the West Virginia Department of Education within a secure database. The applications of the selected students and/or the data in an electronic format will be transferred to personnel at the Governor's School for Tourism. Every precaution is taken to safeguard student records. I understand the selection committee will keep all information confidential and securely maintained.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date



Principal Certification

This form is to be printed and completed using blue or black ink by the school counselor. The principal or assistant principal must sign at the bottom to certify the information below. Please attach this form to the application before submitting to the school counselor for consideration.

Student's First and Last Name: _____

Student Cumulative GPA: _____

Please confirm the information below is accurate within the application, or attached, by applying a checkmark or X.

_____ Two current teacher recommendation letters are attached.

_____ Photocopy of transcript of grades from previous academic year (8th grade or 9th grade) and the grade card of the first semester of the current academic year.

_____ Photocopy of immunization records if the student is from a nonpublic school or homeschooled.

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I hereby certify that the above-named student and information is accurate. I further indicate with my signature a recommendation for the student to be considered for participation in the GST.

Principal or Assistant Principal Signature and Title

Date



Student Activities, Leadership, and Honors

Student's First and Last Name: _____

In the space provided, please highlight school activities, leadership, and honors throughout high school.

Activity/Club/Organization, Honor, Recognition	Leadership Position (if applicable)	Year(s)

If you need more space, please attach a second form.



Special Interests and Community Service

Student's First and Last Name: _____

Please include details about any interests and hobbies you have related to tourism.

Please list your community service involvement during high school.



Postsecondary Education Plans

Student's First and Last Name: _____

Please include information about how your future career and/or education plans relate to the tourism field.



Tourism Review, Itinerary, or Video/Print Advertisement

2025 GST Theme: **Mapping Out the Future of Tourism**

In 2025, the Governor's School for Tourism (GST) will highlight the future of the industry, including special attention to innovative technology in hospitality. The students selected for GST represent the future of tourism, and this traveling classroom will showcase how the next generation of West Virginians can thrive in tourism careers after graduation.

Please choose **one** of the following tasks (A, B, or C) to complete for the application.

A. Identify a tourism site in West Virginia that you have visited and write a detailed "review." This could be any place from a state park to downtown area or even a specific restaurant. What was fun or memorable about your experience? How would you improve the site's visitor experience if you were managing it?

B. Create an itinerary for a visitor who has never been to West Virginia before. Where should they go and why? What makes these experiences special and memorable?

C. Create a video, digital, or print advertisement for a tourism site in West Virginia. Please upload your video or advertisement to an online share folder and provide the link to the work in the space provided below.

Please upload your task to an online share folder and share the link in the space provided below. Your share file must be made public for anyone to view when they click on the link.

Share File Link (you must provide the link to your work here):



Application Specifications

Applications must include the following:

- Application Part II
- Parent and Student Verification Form
- Principal Certification
- Student Activities, Leadership, and Honors
- Special Interests and Community Service
- Postsecondary Education Plans
- Tourism Review, Itinerary, or Video/Print Advertisement – include link for review.
- Two Current Teacher Recommendation Letters (on school letterhead with contact information and signature)
- Transcript Record for grades 8 or 9 AND first semester grades of grade 9 or 10 (provided by counselor)
- Immunization records for nonpublic school and homeschool students.

The school counselor will scan all documents into one file for each student application.

A selection committee at the school will determine students who are recommended from each school. Students who are selected will be recommended to the county superintendent for final selections.

The West Virginia Department of Education is not accepting paper submissions of applications. Once the counselor has scanned all required documents into one file for each student, those files will be submitted electronically from the school to the county and then uploaded to the state file submission from the county superintendent's recommendations. The county contact uploads the county selections to the file submission.

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