



PLEASE READ BEFORE SIGNING YOUR ACCEPTANCE AGREEMENT TO ATTEND GSA

THE COMMUNITY OF ARTISTS: A bit more about the program to which you're committing...

Congratulations on your acceptance into the Governor's School for the Arts, and welcome to the GSA Family!

This will be a unique year for GSA as we convene our community of artists through virtual means. However, the goals and values of GSA remain unchanged.

Our belief in you – and what you are capable of as an artist and a human – has not waived. The need for artists in this world has been amplified. We have seen much passion, talent, and potential in you through the adjudication process and we know that together we can create a wonderful experience this summer.

In some ways, you will experience the same resources and opportunities that you would at a traditional GSA summer program. You will still learn from expert faculty in your field, interact with professional artists who reveal how they've found success, receive mentorship from a "residential" advisor, and create lasting friendships with other Kentuckians who love art just as much as you do. In other ways, this virtual program may provide new opportunities not generally available in a usual summer – new ways of bonding and connecting with each other and the world around us.

A common thread in all of this is you and what you contribute to the GSA community. While the faculty and staff will provide structure and instruction, you have authorship in determining what GSA 2020 can be. Your participation doesn't just include logging on – it includes having the courage to share your creative voice, the openness to learn new things, and the permission to let yourself simply have fun. You have been chosen for this experience because you are good enough – so while feelings of nervousness or intimidation may be natural, show up with the confidence that you're in this program because we want to hear your voice and learn more about you.

GSA Student Guidelines & Expectations

To truly thrive as a community of artists, we must create an environment that is safe, fun, healthy, inclusive and supportive – and each of us plays a role in creating that environment. It is important we all agree to a common set of expectations and rules for our well-being and safety.

The purpose of these policies is not to restrict students, but rather to allow each individual to take full advantage of the GSA program.

- Students shall strive to participate at the highest level of their ability throughout the program. This includes mindfulness of healthy practices, including hydration, eating well, prioritizing rest when possible, etc.
- Students will strive to arrive for all classes, seminars, activities and performances at or before the announced start time.
- While students will not be punished for lack of participation due to lack of technology access, technological malfunctions, family emergencies, and other extenuating circumstances, students will be held accountable to participate to the best of their ability. If a student appears to be participating less than their capacity and resources allow, they will be contacted by GSA Administration to review the limitations of their participation. This may include re-evaluating the student's participation in GSA.

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- Students should wear appropriate and presentable clothing for all GSA activities (no pajamas). Clothing that displays offensive, unhealthy, or inappropriate logos or language is prohibited, and clothing items must fully cover undergarments, chest, stomach, and upper thighs at all times. Students who need to wear certain clothing for specific activities (i.e. movement class, etc.) will be instructed to do so by faculty.
- We understand students will often participate in GSA activities from their home environments where other family members are living, working, and relaxing. Please make as much of an effort as possible to minimize disruptions for yourself and the GSA faculty/students on the other end of your video conference. If possible, participate in GSA activities from a quiet part of your house and ensure that the background of the room you are in does not include anything you would not want others to see. Mute your microphone when not speaking.
- Students should minimize distractions as much as possible when participating in GSA activities. This includes texting, using social media, etc. during instruction.
- Students are not permitted to record any GSA activities or conversations without the expressed permission of everyone present.
- Students should observe general safety and all precautions/guidelines from public health officials throughout GSA, including guidelines on remaining healthy at home and social distancing. If this presents difficulty in completing a GSA project or assignment, or if a GSA activity ever makes you feel unsafe, contact your faculty or other GSA representative immediately. We will work with you to figure out a safe way to complete your work.
- There is a zero-tolerance policy for bullying of any form at GSA. This includes bullying through social media, text messaging, other forms of written communication, and verbal communication. This includes both direct bullying of a victim, as well as the spreading of malicious gossip, rumors, etc. in large or small groups.
- Students must be mindful and respectful of others' social and emotional boundaries. Do not assume others' boundaries are the same as yours.
- Profanity, verbal abuse and disrespect of others will not be tolerated.
- The following are prohibited while participating in GSA activities:
 - The use of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vape pens, and chewing tobacco.
 - The use, or being under the influence, of illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia and/or the abuse of prescription and/or over-the-counter medication.
 - The use, or being under the influence, of alcohol.
- Sexually-charged language, sharing of sexual images or content via texting/messaging/social media, and sexual harassment/intimidation of any kind are strictly prohibited.
- Students may not engage in any illegal activity, nor any activity which could subject GSA to public ridicule or disrepute.
- Students accepted to GSA are perceived by their communities and peers as representatives of the GSA program, even before the program begins. As such, GSA students are expected to exhibit respectful and legal conduct in advance of the program, as well as during it. This includes behavior on social media. Should an accepted student exhibit behavior unbecoming of GSA's guidelines prior to attending the summer program, GSA may re-evaluate the student's invitation to attend summer program.



**OTHER RULES AND GUIDELINES MAY BE ANNOUNCED AS NEEDED.
VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE GSA EXPECTATIONS AND RULES MAY RESULT IN DISMISSAL FROM THE
PROGRAM, AT THE COMPLETE DISCRETION OF THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS**

ATTENDANCE POLICY

While the status of many summer events is still in question, there may be events during the duration of the GSA program that you wish to attend as society potentially adjusts to relaxed social distancing. As a significant amount of resources, time, funding, and energy have been dedicated to building this tuition-free virtual experience for you this summer, you are asked to participate in all scheduled activities to the best of their ability as technology and resources allow from June 29th through July 17th. GSA engages in cooperative learning as much as possible, so even the absence of one student can affect the experience of others. We understand this may require you to miss certain engagements or events

Planned student absences for extremely important family events (i.e. weddings) and/or highly prestigious educational opportunities (i.e. national competition, etc.) will be considered IF submitted in writing to the GSA prior to attending summer program. Such requests are evaluated on a case by case basis and will or will not be approved by the GSA Director prior to the summer program. Submit these requests to gsainfo@kentuckyperformingarts.org as soon as possible.

PRE-PROGRAM FORMS AND ADDITIONAL PREPARATION

During the months of May and June, we will supply you with all the information necessary to prepare for the program, as well as request additional information from you. Once we receive your acceptance agreement, you'll receive account setup instructions for CampDoc. This is the online tool you'll use to complete all your forms for Summer Program.

Contact us with any questions at gsainfo@kentuckyperformingarts.org. Keep an eye out for additional communication from us via email and post, and check our website often, as we'll upload many of the important documents from our mailings there as well: www.kentuckygsa.org.