



**Community and Urban Science Enrichment Explorer Program (CAUSE!)  
(Frequently Asked Questions for CAUSE Explorer Program)**

**What is the CAUSE Explorer Program?**

The Community and Urban Science Enrichment (CAUSE) Explorer Program is designed to train middle-school students in grade 8 interested in science and education to volunteer as community outreach explainers and as assistant counselors for the CAUSE Summer Science Camps. The Explorer Program will engage youth during the transition years from middle school to high school. The program has 4 tiers that focus on science content training, life skills, career exploration, and CAUSE summer camp. Participants will learn to conduct and teach science activities and lessons, explore possible careers, develop professional and personal life skills and participate in field excursions. The Explorer Program runs from November or December to August of the following year. We encourage participants to transition into the CAUSE Intern Program in the fall of their freshman year of high school.

(visit: <http://www.aquaticsciences.org/Community/CAUSE.html>) for more information.

**How do I become a part of the CAUSE Explorer program?**

You must be in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and attend any middle school located in Camden, NJ. Schools include but not limited to the following...

Camden's Promise Charter Middle School  
Cooper B. Hatch Family School  
Cooper's Poynt School  
Dr. Ulysses S. Wiggins College Preparatory Lab Family School  
East Camden Middle School  
Henry H. Davis Family School  
Henry L. Bonsall Family School  
H. B. Wilson Family School  
John Greenleaf Whittier Family School  
LEAP Academy University Charter School  
Octavius V. Catto Community Family School  
Pyne Poynt Middle School  
R.T. Cream Family School  
Thomas H. Dudley Family School  
Veterans Memorial Family School

**I'm in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and attend a middle school in Camden, how do I apply?**

1. We will notify your school during the beginning of the school year and either set up an information session or drop off applications. Look and listen for announcements. During the information session, we will explain how the program works answer any questions you may have and give you an application packet. Once your application is complete you can return it to your school or mail it to us. Mail completed applications to attn: CAUSE Explorer Program, Center for Aquatic Sciences, 1 Riverside Drive, Camden, NJ 08103.
2. You can also download and print an application and character reference forms (print 2) from our website. **TWO Character Reference forms MUST be received to consider application complete.** Complete and mail to the above address.

3. You can complete and submit an application online. **Character Reference forms can be printed out and mailed in by you or your teacher. TWO Character Reference forms MUST be received to consider application complete.** Use above address to mail forms.

### **Is there an interview process?**

Yes. Once CAUSE Staff members receive your application, it will be reviewed. Based on your application, we may call you to set up an interview. All program participants are required to bring in a parent or guardian to the interview.

### **I've been accepted into the program, what happens now?**

Congratulations, you have been accepted. All participants must attend mandatory weekly professional and personal life skills meetings/workshops and trips. Workshop topics can include teambuilding, communication skills, character education and science demonstration training. **Weekend participation is required.**

### **What happens after training?**

Explorers will assist the CAUSE Program High School Interns in the implementation of the CAUSE Summer Science Camps through science demonstrations, activity facilitation, and general help where needed throughout the 5 week camp. Workshops and field trips will continue through the summer to prepare students for transition into the CAUSE Intern program. Students are given priority for entrance but acceptance into the intern program is dependant upon their application and interview.

### **Do CAUSE Explorers travel?**

Yes. CAUSE Explorer participants take trips throughout the year. We may visit other aquariums, zoos, science museums or natural areas. Each year, program participants will take field excursions to places such as the beach, wetlands, forest, or mountains for hands-on field work and techniques training.

### **How much time would I need to commit to the program?**

The CAUSE Explorer Program begins each November or December and ends in August of the following year. You will work approximately 3-10 hours per week during the school year and approximately 16-32 hours during July and August.

### **Can I participate in the CAUSE Intern Program after graduating the Explorer program?**

Yes. Participants are highly encouraged to utilize the Explorer year as preparation to enter the High School Intern Program in the fall of their freshman year. Explorer participants must apply and interview for entrance into the CAUSE Intern Program.

### **Will I be paid?**

Program participants are all volunteers.

### **Will I receive school credit for participating in this program?**

Students do not receive school credit for participation.

### **Recruitment**

We will begin recruitment in October and November for CAUSE Explorer Program. Listen for announcements at your school to attend our information sessions or pickup an application.

### **I have more questions!**

If you have more questions, please contact the Youth and Community Engagement Team at 856.361.1020 or email: [cause@aquaticsciences.org](mailto:cause@aquaticsciences.org)