

## **FAQS – Parents**

### **How can my child apply to SEEK?**

All SEEK conference participants must be sponsored by a garden club in Florida. Garden clubs identify participants (often with the help of high school teachers), then submit each student's registration information and conference fee to SEEK. Students may not apply to SEEK on their own. However, they may contact their local garden club, ask to have their name submitted to SEEK, and offer to pay the entire fee (if the garden club has not budgeted funds for SEEK). If you need help identifying and contacting your local garden club, please contact the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC) at (407) 647-7016 or [ffgc@embarqmail.com](mailto:ffgc@embarqmail.com).

### **How are students selected for SEEK?**

The selection of students takes place at the level of the local garden club. Clubs vary as to the formality vs. informality of their application and selection process. Once a club has selected its students, those students are automatically accepted to attend the SEEK conference (as long as they are in grades 9-11, spaces remain, and all required forms and fees are received by SEEK).

### **Where will my child stay?**

All conference participants will stay in the historic Wakulla Springs Lodge located within the State Park. Your child will share a room with another student who has been matched for gender and age (or was requested as a roommate). Each room has two beds and a bathroom. All rooms are on the second floor of the Lodge. Boys stay in one wing. Girls stay in the other. Several adult chaperones stay in rooms on the same floor of the lodge.

### **How much supervision is there?**

All conference activities are supervised – and attendance is closely monitored – to assure your child's safety and well-being. The SEEK Conference Coordinator is present during all activities from breakfast to bed check. At 10:30 p.m., the SEEK Coordinator and nighttime chaperones confirm that all students are in their assigned rooms for the night.

### **What activities are planned?**

This exciting 4-day conference is packed with interesting educational activities, including speakers, hands-on activities, and field trips. Conference activities begin the day students arrive (Sunday) and continue almost nonstop until the day they leave (Wednesday). (See preliminary conference schedule.)

### **When (and where) should my child arrive?**

Participants should arrive at Wakulla Springs State Park between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Sunday for conference check-in and room assignment. Tell the guard at the gatehouse that you are here for the SEEK conference and you will not be charged a Park admission fee. Follow the signs to the Lodge and park near the Lodge. Look for the SEEK sign-in table in the main lobby of the Lodge.

(See directions and maps to Wakulla Springs State Park.)

**When (and where) should my child depart?**

The conference will end at the Tallahassee Garden Club's facility at 507 Calhoun Street in Tallahassee at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday. Participants should plan to depart from Tallahassee between 3:00 and 3:30 p.m.

(See directions and maps to the Tallahassee Garden Center.)

**How will my child travel to/from the conference?**

Participants must arrange and pay for their own transportation to and from the conference location in North Florida. Families are encouraged to rideshare or carpool whenever possible. This is easy to do as garden clubs often sponsor more than one student from their community. Many students are also traveling the same routes, which allows those traveling longer distances to travel a portion of the way with others.

**What should my child bring?**

(See Packing List.)

**Do I need to send any food?**

All conference meals are provided (from the evening meal on Sunday through lunch on Wednesday). Feel free, however, to send extra snacks or special treats if you wish.

Please make sure that your child obtains lunch prior to the start of the conference on Sunday. Stop enroute or allow time for lunch at the Lodge. The Lodge has a full-service restaurant and an old-fashioned soda fountain that serves sandwiches, beverages, and ice cream during the day.

During the conference, we will eat a hearty buffet breakfast at the Lodge each morning. Our midday and evening meals will be at restaurants located near field trip destinations.

Important: Make sure your child brings a refillable sports water bottle (or canteen). We will not supply bottled water or canned soft drinks on field trips. Instead, we transport a large dispensing cooler of cold water to refill students' individual containers.

**Should my child bring money?**

All of your child's conference expenses are paid in advance. Participants may want to bring a small amount of money to spend at the snack bar or gift shop. However, students should not bring large sums of money – and should leave other valuables at home.

**How can I contact my child?**

Cell phones must be turned off during conference activities but may be used in the participants' rooms before or after the day's activities. Please ask your child to call you at specified times early or late in the day. Otherwise, you may call the Lodge (850-224-5950) early or late in the day.

**Have unanswered questions?**

If you have other questions, feel free to email the SEEK Registrar, Helen Purvis, at [jpurvis77@comcast.net](mailto:jpurvis77@comcast.net) – or call Helen at (850) 251-7171.