



## TESA Instructions for References

*Letters of recommendation are due by Sunday, March 15, 2026.*

To Whom It May Concern,

The student you are writing a letter of recommendation for is applying to the Teatown Environmental Science Academy (TESA). TESA is an intensive field-based summer research program for students who have a strong interest in ecological and environmental science and are considering a career in this field. The program is a collaboration between Teatown Lake Reservation and PACE University and is taught by professional scientists and instructors. Students will be accepted into TESA on a competitive basis, with preference given to students who demonstrate academic success, leadership, creativity, and maturity.

The mission of TESA is to provide high school students with meaningful hands-on experience with the theories, tools, and techniques scientists use to study today's pressing environmental issues. The educational curriculum of TESA focuses on actively engaging students in the scientific process, from developing a question to presenting their findings. Students will use Teatown's outdoor nature preserve and indoor lab space to conduct their research. The capstone of the program is the completion of an independent research project which the students present at an end-of-program poster symposium. Many TESA students continue with their projects after the program is over and present their findings at competitions.

Additional program information can be found [here](#).

In your letter of recommendation, please include the following:

1. Your name and contact information (address, email, and phone) as well as the name of the student you are recommending for the program.
2. A description of your relationship to the student including the course(s)/project(s) in which you mentored the student.
3. Your assessment of the student's academic strengths and weaknesses, performance in group settings, maturity, and character. Any additional insight into the student's character and interest in environmental science would be greatly appreciated.

Letters should be **sent directly to me by email** (akarpati@teatown.org) by **Sunday, March 15, 2026**. Letters should not be sent by the student. Please include the student's name in the subject line (i.e., Jane Smith TESA Recommendation).

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions and thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

Amy Karpati, Ph.D.  
Senor Science Advisor