



## JASON Learning Argonaut Program STUDENT APPLICATION CHECKLIST

There's a lot that goes into a successful JASON Argonaut Application! Here's a handy application checklist to help you nail down all of the essential details and make sure you remember to include all of the required components. Remember, the deadline for applying for the 2017 JASON Argonaut Team is **January 15, 2017**. Be sure to get started as soon as possible so you don't have any last-minute issues!

- Download** the “downloadable forms” package. This can be found under “How Do I Apply”, item #3, in the application guidelines. This contains all of the forms that you'll eventually need to print, have signed, scan, and upload into the application.
- Determine if you are applying from one of our **sponsored Argonaut schools, districts or regions**. This is important because it helps us organize applicants during the selection process. Ask your teacher or school administrator if you are unsure, or email us at [argo@jason.org](mailto:argo@jason.org). If you are not from one of these sponsored areas, that's OK! Just apply as an “At-Large” candidate.
- If you have a passport**, have it handy. We'll be asking you for information that it contains. If you don't have one yet, that's OK. You may or may not need one depending on the expedition you are assigned to.
- To apply to be an Argonaut you'll need your **parent or guardian's permission and support**. We'll ask you for their contact information and a signed letter of consent.
- Student Argonaut applicants must identify an adult “**sponsor**.” This is an adult that can help you through the application process and provide support and guidance whenever needed. It can be a parent or guardian, or it could be another adult that is important in your life, such as another family member, a teacher, a coach, etc. There is no financial obligation for Argonaut applicant sponsors. Figure out who you'd like to help you in this role, ask them to be your sponsor, and share with them all of this background information.
- Prepare your essays**. Your essays (and video, below) are the most important components of your application, because they are the best ways for us to get to know you and how you communicate. It's best to write and edit them beforehand, then copy and paste them into the online application form. There are three, each with 500 word limits:
  1. Write about a topic in the area of science or technology that you find interesting.



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2. Write about a challenge that you have faced in your life and how you have met this challenge.
  3. Write about the ways you will share your Argonaut experience with your community when you return home.
- Create your video.** Your video can be a simple mobile phone recording of you talking to camera, or if you prefer, a highly edited production. Either way, we're looking for you to convey your enthusiasm and excitement for this Argonaut opportunity, and share with the judges who you are and why you're such a great candidate for the team. Make sure we can see and hear you clearly, and that you keep the video to no more than 3 minutes max. Here are some guiding questions you'll want to address:
1. Why do you wish to become a JASON Student Argonaut?
  2. What would your ideal Argonaut expedition consist of? Where would you go and what would you do?
  3. In what unique ways will you contribute to the team if you are selected?
  4. What do you hope to gain from the Argonaut experience?
- Upload your video** to a video sharing website such as YouTube or Vimeo. You cannot upload the video file directly to the application system – you'll need to copy and paste the URL where it can be viewed. Often applicants will want to keep their videos private, only for the eyes of the JASON Argonaut selection committee. That's OK – just set the video to be private, unlisted, and/or password-protected. If you password-protect the video, be sure to share the password with us in the space provided in the application so the judges will be able to see it! It's best to have a family member or friend test to see if they can view the video using the password before submitting the application just to be sure. It's not always obvious how things will look or work when the viewer is not logged in to your personal account.
- Gather your references' email addresses.** You will enter your references' email addresses in the application form. They will receive an automated email from the application system requesting a reference letter and providing a link where they can upload it. It will be added to your application at that point. Some email systems mistakenly flag the automated emails as spam, so give your references a heads-up that they should expect a message. If they do not get the message, they can always email their reference letters directly to us at [argo@jason.org](mailto:argo@jason.org). The references you'll need to complete the application are as follows:



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- Parent or guardian letter of consent, stating that they are aware of your application and will support your participation in Argonaut travel and activities if selected
  - Sponsor reference letter, stating that they are aware of the role, responsibilities, and expectations for an Argonaut application sponsor and are willing to support you in this way. If your sponsor is also your parent/guardian, they can state this in their parent/guardian letter of consent and upload just the one document
  - Reference letters from two teachers or educators that know you well
  - A confirmation of awareness and support from your school administrator (principal or headmaster typically). You can use the form in the “downloadable documents” package for this.
- Gather your school records.** You’ll need copies of your school transcripts & attendance records.
  - Medical statement.** Have your doctor or other qualified medical care provider fill out the medical statement in the “downloadable documents” package.
  - Check for future commitments and conflicts.** Look at your calendar for June-October 2017 to see if you have anything significant planned, and let us know when those dates are. These will not affect your candidacy as an Argonaut, but are good for us to know as we assemble the teams and determine the expedition you will participate in.
  - Complete the release forms.** Have your parent or guardian read and sign the two release forms in the “downloadable documents” package: Photo Release & Liability Release
  - Locate or take a high-resolution photo of yourself.** This will be your initial Argonaut “headshot” that we will use if you are selected to the team. Your photo file should be portrait-oriented, be framed to include your entire head and some of your chest and shoulders, and at least 1000 pixels high (although the bigger the better!). No sunglasses, please.