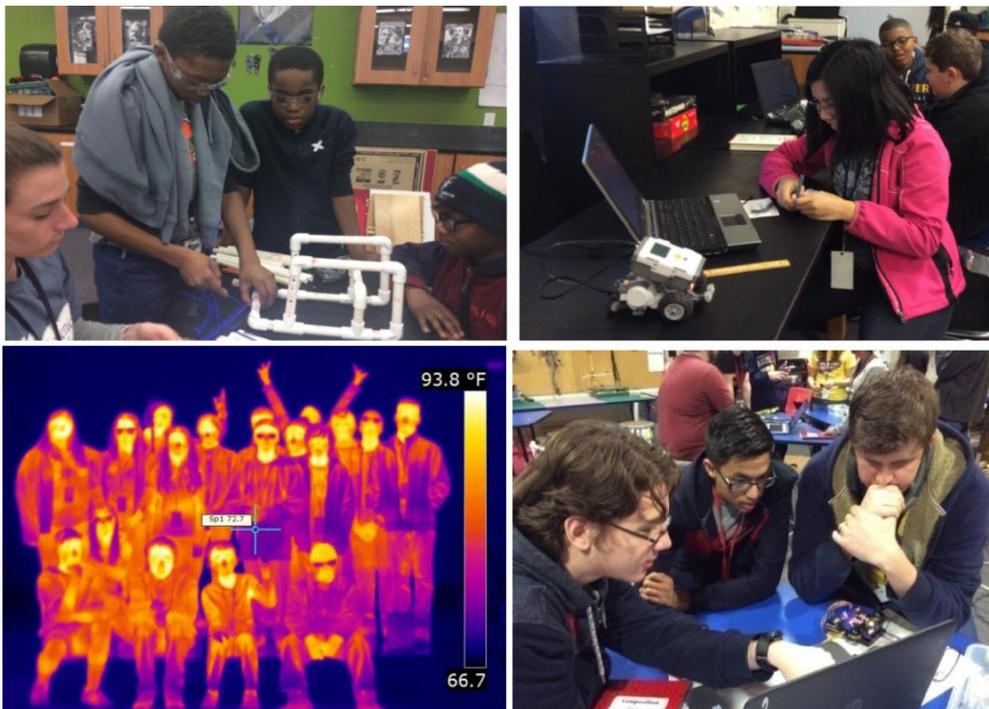




GREAT SCIENCE ACADEMY **Parent/Guardian information** **2019-2020**



GRADES 6-9

Great Lakes Science Center

601 Erieside Avenue

Cleveland, Ohio 44114

(216) 694-2000

GreatScience.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME TO GSA!	3
2019-20 PROGRAM DATES	4
ABOUT THE GREAT SCIENCE ACADEMY	
Program Philosophy.....	5
Program Goals	5
Grade-specific Themes	7
Program Year Overview	8
Program Enrollment Procedures.....	8
Program Scholarships.....	8
Cancellation and Refund Policy	8
Program Details	
Session Scheduling and Meeting Times	9
Program Location and Parking	9
Typical Saturday Agenda	9
Pick-up and Drop-off Procedures	9
Late Arrival/Early Dismissal.....	10
Emergencies	10
Field Trips	10
GSA SCHOLAR EXPECTATIONS	
Attendance	11
Behavior	11
Work Space	12
Discipline	13
Prohibited Items	13
Lost and Found	13
Communications	
Reporting Changes	14
Special Dietary Requirements	14
Scholar Health and Wellness	15
Emergencies	15
Injuries	15
Illness	15
Medications	15

WELCOME TO GSA!

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to Great Science Academy (GSA)! We are looking forward to ensuring that your Scholar not only has a great time while stretching their knowledge, imagination, creativity and confidence as they explore the wonderful worlds of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)!



Now in its ninth year of operation, GSA is a transformative experience like no other. Scholars meet, on average, every other Saturday and work together towards a common goal. The program immerses Scholars in a variety of real-world applications that combines hands-on learning with opportunities to meet, and learn from, local STEM professionals. The program also features several special events and

activities that include off-site fieldtrips and an Overnight experience at the Great Lakes Science Center!

Grades 6-9 will be joined by a very special group of longtime GSA Scholars: our 10th, 11th, and 12th grade interns. Many of these individuals started GSA in grade 6 and they'll be working with our younger GSA scholars to provide mentoring and program support, as well as being great role models!

We are incredibly excited to meet you and your Scholar this year – and look forward to hosting you at both our Orientation and Culminating Day. We are ready for another year of fun, exploration, and learning!

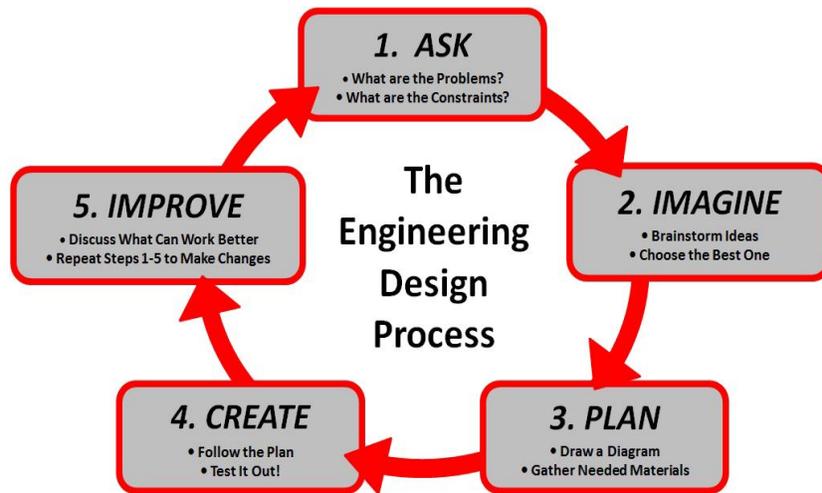
2019-2020 PROGRAM DATES

6th and 8th Grade		7th and 9th Grade	
October 5	Session 1 (Orientation)	October 12	Session 1 (Orientation)
October 19	Session 2	October 26	Session 2
November 2	Session 3	November 9	Session 3
November 16	Session 4	November 23	Session 4
December 7	Session 5	December 14	Session 5
December 21	Session 6 (Winterfest)	December 21	Session 6 (Winterfest)
WINTER BREAK			
January 11	Session 7	January 18	Session 7
January 25	Session 8	February 1	Session 8
February 8	Session 9	February 15	Session 9
February 22	Session 10	February 29	Session 10
March 7	Session 11	March 14	Session 11
March 21	Session 12	March 28	Session 12
April 3	Session 13 (Overnight)	April 3	Session 13 (Overnight)
April 18	Session 14	April 25	Session 14
May 2	Session 15	May 9	Session 15
May 16	Session 16	May 23	Session 16
May 30	Session 17	May 30	Session 17
June 6	Session 18 (Culminating Day)	June 6	Session 18 (Culminating Day)

ABOUT GREAT SCIENCE ACADEMY

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

While getting Cleveland-area youth excited about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math is our top priority, we also strive to help each participant develop their abilities in areas such as critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving. This is why we choose to use the "Engineering Design Process" while working with, and challenging, our GSA Scholars. The Engineering Design Process is a series of steps that engineers commonly use to solve problems, improve existing processes, or take advantage of a new opportunity.



PROGRAM GOALS

We have high expectations for our Scholars! Here are the five main GSA Program Goals as well as how we will work to achieve them with each and every participant:

Goal 1: Scholars will increase their STEM literacy and awareness through active, hands-on learning, and experimentation at a grade-appropriate level.

We do not expect every GSA Scholar to become an engineer or scientist, but which ever educational or career direction they choose, our Scholars' personal and professional lives will be impacted by Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. We want them well prepared and comfortable in using, applying, and benefiting from STEM throughout their lives. As a natural byproduct, we also want them learning how to approach problems with both creativity and innovation. We will put technology into their hands, but it will be their thinking and actions that actually solve a problem.

Goal 2: Scholars will become familiar with different STEM career pathways and viable career options in local STEM fields.

Grades 6-9 are a critical time for career exploration and educational decision-making and since Northeast Ohio is home to many amazing STEM career paths, colleges, and organizations, we want to make sure our Scholars know about these opportunities. We will help them explore different career options, as well as have them working with professionals who can answer questions and provide personal insight as to how they achieved their personal and occupational goals.

Goal 3: Scholars will develop 21st century skills, especially in the areas of critical thinking, collaboration, and communication.

Teamwork and communication are foundational and recurring components of GSA because these skills help our Scholars excel both academically and professionally. While each individual is recognized for his/her unique talents, abilities, and preferences, Scholars will be challenged to work with others on a regular basis; allowing them to experience both diversity and collaboration while working to develop both written and verbal communication skills.

Goal 4: Scholars will develop perseverance and self-efficacy throughout their work.

We expect Scholars in GSA to never give up. Our curriculum is designed to challenge them and requires hard work and commitment. Through guided exploration and discovery, GSA Scholars learn the value of "grit and perseverance" as they work through the challenges towards success.

Goal 5: Scholars will have fun, become part of a vibrant community, and create lasting memories!

GSA is a learning experience, but we try to make sure it's not just more "school." Rather, by using the unique resources at Great Lakes Science Center, we provide opportunities that most students cannot get in traditional academic settings.

We also want every GSA session to be better than the last, so we will be working hard to make each unit, project, or event an adventure. We'll plan things ahead of time, but we are also flexible if the group's interests take us in additional directions. We will also ask you and your Scholar for input about what you would like to accomplish in the program, or ways we can improve the experience.

GRADE-SPECIFIC THEMES

From grades 6 to 9, each year of the GSA concentrates on a specific theme or area of investigation. In grades 10, 11 and 12 Scholars move on to independent studies as well as internships in a field of their choice.

The following are the GSA yearly themes and examples of typical Scholar activities/projects:

Grade 6: Great Lakes

- Build biomes to gain an understanding of the inter-dependency of aquatic inhabitants
- Engineer underwater robots to explore ecosystems too dangerous for humans to travel
- Connect with STEM Professionals working to make our Great Lake region a better place to live and work

Grade 7: Space and Aeronautics

- Design rovers to compete in a Mars EV3 course to gain programming skills and solve real-world problems
- Explore solar energy and engineer a solar-powered charger to learn about resources and sustainability
- Grow hydroponic plants and learn about alternative agriculture required to inhabit Mars

Grade 8: Biomedical Engineering

- Design and create video game controllers that promote health and wellness
- Fabricate a real biomedical device to learn about biomechanics and help patients through rehabilitation and recovery
- Meet health professionals who design the technologies of the future to learn about the variety of health-related careers in Cleveland

Grade 9: Design and Innovation

- Implement the Engineering Design Process to learn how products are created from ideation to product launch
- Design and engineer unique creations using advanced technology and fabrication equipment from CAD software to 3-D printers and other tools
- Visit state-of-the-art manufacturing plants to learn how to create a product pitch to hone communication skills and communicating with purpose

PROGRAM YEAR

Great Science Academy (GSA) is a nine-month program which begins in October and ends the following June. There are 18 sessions including the Sleep Over. Enrollment is rolling through December or until grade capacity is reached. Additional enrollees will be placed on a wait list in the event of a cancellation.

PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships to cover tuition for Great Science Academy are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants are evaluated without regard to race, religion, natural origin, sex, or physical disability. Scholarship applications will be processed in the order received, and scholarships will be awarded until available funds are exhausted. Awards must be accepted within one week of offer or the scholarship will be withdrawn.

Each scholarship requires a \$50, non-refundable deposit at the time of registration.

Additional information, financial eligibility guidelines, and applications are available at GreatScience.com.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

Cancellations made more than two weeks in advance of the program start date qualify for a full refund minus a \$35 administration fee. Cancellations made less than two weeks (14 calendar days) are eligible for a 50 percent refund minus the \$35 administration fee. Once the program has begun, no refunds will be issued.

All refunds will be processed via the credit card on file. Please allow up to two weeks for the refund to be posted.

PROGRAM DETAILS

SESSION SCHEDULING AND MEETING TIMES

GSA meets every other Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Great Lakes Science Center. Grade 6 and 8 cohorts meet on the same Saturdays, with grade 7 and 9 cohorts meeting on the following Saturdays. For the full schedule, please see page 4.

PROGRAM LOCATION AND PARKING

Unless otherwise noted, all GSA sessions will be held at Great Lakes Science Center located in downtown Cleveland, Ohio. Contact information is as follows:

Great Lakes Science Center
601 Erieside Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114
(216)-694-2000
GreatScience.com

Parent/Guardian may park in the attached Great Lakes Science Center garage to drop off and pick up Scholars. **Free parking is provided for the first 30 minutes.** GSA staff members will provide a parking pass if there is a need for parking over 30 minutes.

TYPICAL SATURDAY AGENDA

Saturday sessions are the backbone of GSA. During these sessions Scholars may work on long-term projects, do special activities, go on a field trip, or have a guest STEM speaker/demonstration. Here is a typical day's agenda:

8:45-9:15	Sign-in
9:15-10:55	Projects/activities by grade
10:55-11:00	Clean-up
11:00-11:30	Lunch
11:30-12:00	Science Center exploration, guest speaker, or other activity
12:00-1:15	Projects/activities by grade
1:15-1:30	Clean-up and reflection
1:30	Sign-out

PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF PROCEDURES

To ensure the safety of each child and in compliance with American Camp Association regulations, **only parents/guardians or others previously authorized may sign a Scholar out of each GSA session.** Parents/guardians will be asked at the beginning of the GSA program year to provide the names of persons authorized for sign-out.

For anyone other than those listed to pick up a child, GSA must have a written notice from the parent/guardian before the child can be released. ***Please know that any person attempting to pick up a child will be asked to produce a photo ID.*** If no photo ID is provided, a Scholar will not be released from the program.

LATE ARRIVAL and EARLY DISMISSAL

Sign-in is from 8:45-9:15 a.m. If a start time varies due to a special event or field trip, parents/guardians will be notified in advance. If a Scholar is running late, please notify us immediately. If the late arrival is affected by a special off-site event or field trip, **parents will be required to make arrangements for their child to meet the group at the event site** as once the group has left Great Lakes Science Center, we cannot provide individual transportation or guarantee the participation of late Scholars.

In the event that an early dismissal is requested, advanced notice is required.

EMERGENCIES

Emergency situations can be frightening – and can become the source of panic and/or confusion that spreads throughout a group. For this reason **parents are asked NOT to relay emergency information directly to a child by cell phone.**

Instead, if there is a family emergency or the need for immediate pick up, ***please call the main number of the Science Center at 216-694-2000 and ask for Great Science Academy.*** The GSA Coordinator or designee will be contacted by radio and will take or return the call immediately. GSA staff will also work to communicate information or arrange pick-up as quickly as possible. A staff member will also stay with the child until the issue is addressed or he/she is picked up.

FIELD TRIPS

The term "field trip" is used to describe any GSA session held away from Great Lakes Science Center. All Scholars must have a signed release agreement on file (completed at the time of program enrollment) in order to participate in a field trip.

Great Lakes Science Center generally uses school buses to transport Scholars for field trips. For special events or very small groups, maxi-vans or taxis may also be used. For near-by field trip locations, Scholars may also walk as a group. Scholars are always accompanied by adults in transport and on location of all field trips.

Parents/guardians are asked to understand that field trips can sometimes last longer than expected and a scheduled return time may be delayed. If a delay is anticipated, Scholars will be asked to relay that information to their parents/guardians. Parents may also call the Science Center (216-694-2000) for status updates and expected time of arrival.

GSA SCHOLAR EXPECTATIONS

ATTENDANCE

It is normal for a Scholar to miss a GSA session during the year due to illness or other issues. However, because GSA is a highly experiential program - with nearly all events and projects done on a team basis - an absence means missing an important part of the development or building process. He/she may also end up unprepared for a presentation or competition. Lastly, the Scholar's team loses the additional input and help. For these reasons, **regular attendance at every GSA session is extremely important.**

We will make every attempt to work with families and Scholars that are failing to maintain appropriate attendance. Continued lapses in attendance will result Scholars being removed from the program should the attendance disrupt the meaningful experience or make catching up with other participants impossible.

Absences are classified as follows:

Excused Absence: If a student needs to miss a session, the parent/guardian is asked to call or email the GSA Coordinator in advance so that instructors can be informed. ***Absences with prior notification will be considered "excused" absences.***

Unexcused Absence: If a student is absent and GSA staff members are not aware **in advance of the session**, a GSA staff member will call the parent/guardian following the missed session. The reason for the call will be to make sure 1) the Scholar is OK, and 2) he/she will be able to return for the next scheduled session.

BEHAVIOR

Through GSA, Scholars have access to many experiences, privileges, and opportunities that other students may never have. Therefore, all Scholars are expected to behave in ways that reflect positively on both Great Science Academy and Great Lakes Science Center.

Basic behavior expectations are as follows:

- All GSA Scholars will show respect to other Scholars, instructors, and staff by -
 - giving their full, undivided attention to instructors, volunteers, speakers, and peers while they are teaching or directing an activity;
 - following directions and waiting patiently while an instructor or volunteer is assisting another Scholar;
 - trying to find their own solution to a problem before asking for help, and not getting angry if the proposal is not immediately accepted;
 - solving problems or differences in a polite and professional manner (i.e., not "talking back" to an instructor, volunteer, or other facilitator)

- All GSA Scholars will support the positive and encouraging environment of GSA by
 - showing kindness, respect and courtesy to all persons they meet through GSA;
 - avoiding inappropriate or vulgar language at all times;
 - respecting the physical person and space of other Scholars by keeping hands, feet, and other body parts at a distance;
 - avoiding behaviors that could be seen as invasive, intimidating, or threatening to others (i.e., bullying);
 - respecting the facilities, equipment, supplies, and furniture of Great Lakes Science Center.

- All GSA Scholars will avoid annoying and disruptive behavior with cell phones by understanding that –
 - cell phones may be used ONLY during designated times unless authorized for research or other project activities;
 - only ONE warning will be given for a cell phone violation;
 - after one warning, the cell phone will be taken and not returned until the end of the GSA session; and
 - repeated cell phone violations may result in the Scholar being removed from the program.

- All GSA Scholars will demonstrate personal responsibility and self-sufficiency in their GSA learning by –
 - thinking of and offering solutions to problems before asking instructors;
 - supporting their team members by regular attendance, completing tasks as promised, and communicating in a respectful and timely way;
 - understanding the difference between “playtime” and “worktime”;
 - keeping track of materials and projects; and
 - observing deadlines and completing assignments/tasks within the designated time.

If the preceding behaviors are observed, there should be no need for disciplinary measures with any GSA Scholar. To that end, GSA staff will attempt to -

- help scholars avoid or eliminate behavior issues through clear direction and expectations;
- encourage appropriate behavior rather than comparing or criticizing behaviors;
- ensure that competition between/among individuals or teams is healthy, not destructive; and redirect Scholar(s) behavior to more acceptable and productive path(s).

WORK SPACES

All GSA scholars are expected to clean up after themselves and their team. They are also expected to assist GSA staff in cleaning the entire work area and returning all tools/equipment/ supplies to designated storage areas. Cleaning will be done at the end of every project as well as at the end of the session day.

DISCIPLINE

If a Scholar fails to meet behavior expectations, he/she could be subject to discipline up to and including dismissal from the Program. Examples of “minor” behavior issues include (but are not limited to) -

- Failing to clean up after directed by an instructor

- Talking back to an instructor
- Misbehaving during an activity
- Failing to give attention during presentation
- Neglecting to follow instructor directions
- Roughhousing
- Inappropriate cell phone/electronic device use

Normally, minor behavior issues will be handled directly by the instructor and a parent/guardian will not be contacted unless the behavior persists and/or escalates into a more serious issue.

"Major" behavior issues include (but are not limited to) –

- Bullying
- Verbal abuse
- Physical abuse
- Direct defiance of Great Lakes Science Center staff
- Causing injury to a GSA scholar or staff member
- Deliberately creating a dangerous situation for others
- Deliberately causing damage or destruction to GSA equipment or property

In these cases, the GSA Coordinator will contact the parent/guardian to discuss the situation as well as communicate any formal disciplinary actions to be taken. A formal letter may also be sent home and/or a personal conference requested.

GSA staff and instructors will make every effort to accommodate individual Scholar's learning styles, preferences and behaviors. **However, teamwork and collaboration are expected and critical behaviors within the GSA program.** Therefore, any student who consistently shows the inability to work with others may be asked to participate on a modified level or to leave the program entirely.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

For everyone's safety and security, Scholars are NOT to bring the following items with them to GSA session:

- electronic games or toys
- radios, I-pods
- personal computers/tablets/I-pads
- money or other valuables
- food or drink items (except for packed lunch to accommodate a special diet)
- animals of any type (i.e., pets, insects, etc.)

If brought to a session, Great Lake Science Center is not responsible for the loss of the item. Scholars bringing an animal will be immediately released for the day and the parent called for pickup.

Students bringing any of the following items to a GSA session will be immediately removed from the program:

- knives and other weapons (including pocket knives and box cutters)
- guns of any type (including toy guns that appear to be real)
- sexually explicit material in any form
- alcohol, tobacco, or drugs

LOST AND FOUND

GSA staff will make every effort to help Scholars keep track of their belongings. However, GSA and Great Lakes Science Center are NOT responsible for items lost and/or stolen during sessions. **This includes cellular phones, I-pods, I-pads, and other electronic items, including chargers, keyboards, mice, etc.**

Items found at the end of a GSA session will be turned in to Great Lakes Science Center Box Office. The Box Office keeps all lost and found property for one (1) month and then donates unclaimed items to charitable organizations.

COMMUNICATIONS

REPORTING CHANGES

So that all Scholars have the ultimate GSA experience, parents/guardians are asked to complete the "Getting to Know You" form at the time of online program registration. The form will need to be completed at orientation if not done online.

During the program year, parents/guardians are asked to keep all contact information up-to-date, as well as notify the GSA Coordinator if there is some type of major change in their Scholar's life (i.e., school problems, illness of the Scholar or a family member, divorce/separation; military service by a parent; etc.). The knowledge will be kept strictly confidential, and will be used to modify the Scholar's GSA experience appropriately.

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

GSA provides meal items from outside organizations. Breakfast items typically include bagels, fruit, juice, granola bars, and milk. Boxed lunches are comprised of healthy meals and snacks.

Parents/guardians will need to notify GSA staff of any food allergies or special dietary needs prior to program start by entering them on the medical form.

GSA staff will do their best to accommodate each child's specific dietary needs. However, individual tastes/preferences cannot be accommodated. If a child has food issues or does not like the provided lunches, parents/guardians are asked to send lunch from home. **Please note: refrigeration and heating options are not available.**

SCHOLAR HEALTH AND WELLNESS

GSA staff is dedicated to keeping our Scholars safe and healthy. To that end, all Scholars are required to have a completed medical form on file prior to beginning GSA. This form is available through the Great Lakes Science Center's online registration system.

GSA staff will certainly handle the everyday "bumps and bruises" that can occur with children. Staff will also immediately notify parents/guardians if anything more significant occurs. The following sections describe how health-related situations will be handled.

EMERGENCIES

In the event of serious or life-threatening illness/injury, GSA staff will call emergency personnel to transport a Scholar to the nearest hospital. An incident/accident report will be completed.

In the event of emergency transport and treatment, parents/guardians will be responsible for any charges and fees for the ambulance.

INJURY

For accidents that are not life threatening but require medical attention, Great Lakes Science Center staff will immediately notify a parent/guardian. If the parent/guardian cannot be reached, designated persons on the injured child's emergency notification card will be notified. If the staff cannot reach any of the emergency sources, the injured child's physician will be contacted and appropriate actions taken.

ILLNESS

Parents/guardians are asked NOT to send a child to GSA if he/she is exhibiting obvious symptoms of illness such as a fever, diarrhea, vomiting, headache/ear ache, etc. There should also be **a period of at least 24 hours** between the last symptom of illness and the start of a GSA session.

Any child that comes to a session with such symptoms will have their parent/guardian called to pick up the Scholar. If the Scholar is not picked up within one hour of notification, GSA staff will begin to notify additional persons on the Scholar's contact list.

MEDICATIONS

Scholars should receive all required medications outside of GSA time. However, and if necessary, the following accommodations can be made:

- If the child requires a medication to be *administered* during GSA time, the parent/guardian must first provide a signed medication administration permission form. This form is available in the online registration system under "Forms." The parent/guardian will then need to contact the GSA Coordinator to ensure that all proper information is shared/procedures are followed.
- If a child needs to *carry emergency medications* during GSA time (i.e., such as an inhaler or Epi-Pen), a "Health Care Plan for Treatment of Respiratory Issues or Severe Allergy/Anaphylaxis" form must be submitted. This form can also be found on the registration site under "Forms." Once again, the parent/guardian will need to contact the GSA Coordinator to ensure that proper information is shared/procedures followed.

Both forms should be scanned and attached at the time of enrollment. The GSA Coordinator will then call the parent/guardian to discuss specific details. If it is decided that a Scholar will bring medications with him/her during GSA sessions, the following are medication procedures:

Medications must be kept in the original labeled bottle or container. Prescription medications must contain the original pharmacy label that lists:

- 1) Child's name
 - 2) Prescribing practitioner's name
 - 3) Pharmacy name and telephone number
 - 4) Date prescription was filled
 - 5) Expiration date of the medication
 - 6) Name of the medication
 - 7) Dosage
 - 8) How often to give the medication
 - 9) Length of time the medication is to be given
- Over-the-counter medication must be kept in the originally labeled container and be labeled with the child's first and last name.
 - In the case of personal emergency medications such as inhalers or EpiPens, the Scholar will carry the medication on his/her person unless other arrangements are made in advance.

For additional information or questions, please contact:

Reservations, Programs & Events
Great Lakes Science Center
601 Erieside Avenue
Cleveland, OH, 44114
216-621-2400

Email: edhelp@glsc.org