Rogers Explorers Program Overview:

The Rogers Explorers program is an intensive three day, two night program focusing on developing skills in leadership, technology, entrepreneurship, and community service. It is developed, coordinated, and supervised by The Center for Rural Development in partnership with The University of the Cumberlands, Lindsey Wilson College, Eastern Kentucky University, and Morehead State University. Students from The Center's 42-county service area may apply during their eighth grade year. If selected through a competitive process, they will attend the program in Williamsburg, Columbia, Morehead **or** Richmond during the summer before their ninth grade year. All lodging, meals, and program expenses (with the exception of transportation to and from the program) are **free to the student**. Activities throughout the program are both educational and fun. Classroom activities are very hands-on, so don't expect to be bored! Explorers are able to participate in hands-on college courses, fine tune leadership skills and develop a network of friends and resources throughout our Southern and Eastern Kentucky region.

Eligibility/Selection Process:

To be eligible to apply for the Rogers Explorers program, you must:

- ❑ Be a current eighth grader located within The Center's 42-County Service Area.
- ❑ Have a strong interest in developing skills in leadership, technology, math, science and community service.
- ❑ Have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4 point scale). *If your GPA is less than 3.0, you may submit a letter from your guidance counselor explaining any special circumstances that may have affected your GPA and/or why you should be considered for the Rogers Explorers program regardless of your GPA.*

A total of 120 students from the identified counties will be selected for the program in 2012, with 30 students participating on the campus of University of the Cumberlands, 30 students participating on the campus of Lindsey Wilson College, 30 students participating on the campus of Morehead State University, and 30 students participating on the campus of Eastern Kentucky University. A selection committee consisting of staff from The Center for Rural Development will be established. In order to ensure fairness, applications will be numbered and applicant names removed prior to distributing copies to the selection committee. The committee will review and score all of the applications according to the criteria and point values established for each section. The two applicants with the highest score in each county will be selected as that county's representative. After those 84 selections are made, the highest 36 scores of the remaining applicants will also be selected as Rogers Explorers. As a result, some schools and/or counties will have more than two representatives. Every applicant remaining after the first 120 selections will be considered an alternate, and will be ranked from the highest to lowest score. If a selected Explorer is unable to attend the program, the alternates will be contacted in order of their rank until the open spot is filled. For this reason, all applicants are encouraged to keep the program dates and the possibility of selection in mind as they make their plans for the summer. If there is a specific campus that you would prefer to attend, please make note of that on your application.

2012 Rogers Explorers Program Dates:
June 3-5 at Lindsey Wilson College in Columbia
June 6-8 at University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg
July 18-20 at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond
July 22-24 at Morehead State University in Morehead

"Leadership is what our future is all about so I encourage each and every one of you to be original thinkers, problem solvers and _explorers_!" Congressman Hal Rogers

Please type or print legibly and complete ALL requested information. If there is a question that doesn't apply to you please put "N/A" rather than leaving the space blank. Applications are scored in five different areas, with the number of available points for each area indicated in the header of that section. The maximum number of points an application may receive is 100. Please make sure that all required attachments are sent in the same envelope as your application (references, transcripts, etc.).

<u>Section I. Personal Information</u>

First name:＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿ Last Name:＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿

Mailing Address:＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿

City:＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿ County:＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿

Zip Code:＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿ School:＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿

E-mail address:＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿

Home phone:＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿Adult T-Shirt Size＿＿＿＿Gender:☐ Male ☐ Female

Cell phone: ＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿

Parents/Legal Guardians:＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿

Parent/Guardian work phone(s):＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿

Rank your preference of campus location: (1 being first preference and 3 being last)
☐ June 3-5 at Lindsey Wilson College
☐ June 6-8 at University of the Cumberlands
☐ July 18-20 at Eastern Kentucky University
☐ July 22-24 at Morehead State University
☐ No preference-I would be happy at any location

Section II. Extracurricular Activities (20 Points)

Extracurricular Activities are defined as school-related activities in which you participate in addition to your regular classroom work. This includes school sponsored clubs, organizations, associations, programs, and athletic teams.

Please list your extracurricular activities. Write the full name of any activity that has an acronym (i.e. write *Student Technology Leadership Program* instead of *STLP*). If you have a leadership position or role in any of the activities, please describe that position/role.

Leadership:

Technology:

Community Service (School-sponsored):

Other:

Section III. Community Service Activities (10 Points)

Community Service Activities are defined as those activities that involve your time and volunteer efforts for a community-related group or project (not school-related). This includes time you put into helping civic organizations, doing community-related church activities, working as a volunteer, or contributing to other community-minded activities. Clubs/organizations/associations you are involved in that are not school-related should be listed here.

Section IV. Written Essay (50 points)

Using the following guidelines, prepare a written essay on a separate sheet(s) of white 8 ½ x 11" paper and submit it with your application. The essay will be scored based on: content, creativity, spelling, grammar, insightfulness, and how well the essay addresses the program's areas of focus.

The essay <u>must</u>:
- ❑ be a minimum of one (1) and a maximum of two (2) typewritten pages, double-spaced
- ❑ be completed using 12 point Times New Roman font
- ❑ utilize page margins of 1" on the left, right, top and bottom of every page
- ❑ be identified by indicating the student's first and last name as the first line of text

You should spend considerable time preparing your essay, as it is worth 50% of your overall score. It is critical to adhere to the essay guidelines. **Failure to follow the guidelines will result in an automatic 10-point deduction.**

<u>Essay Topic</u>
Your essay must be written to address the following topic:

> **"In your opinion, how can math and science skills contribute to the long-term sustainability of Southern and Eastern Kentucky? Why is this so important to your home county?"**

Section V. Letters of Recommendation/Character Assessment (5 Points)

Please submit two (2) letters of recommendation <u>with your application</u>. One (1) of the letters must be written by an individual who is employed by the school system you attend, and one (1) letter must be written by someone from your community who is *not* employed by the school system. <u>Family members or relatives may not write letters of recommendation.</u>

Section VI. Academic Performance (15 Points)

Your must submit a current school transcript along with your program application. Your cumulative grade point average (un-weighted by your school) will be utilized to assess a score on academic performance. Applicants should have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4-point scale.

NOTE TO GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

A current copy of the student's transcript must be submitted with the application in order to be considered for the program. Please provide contact information should we have questions regarding the transcript.

Counselor's Name:_____ School Phone:_____

I hereby certify that the information I have provided with this application is accurate and correct, and that the essay I have submitted is my original work. **I agree that, if selected, I will actively participate in the program for its full duration and I will abide by the Rogers Explorers Code of Conduct.**

Student Signature:_____ Date:_____

Parental Consent

As parent or legal guardian of the student named on this application, I hereby give my consent for the release of his/her school records to those individuals who manage the Rogers Explorers Program and all those involved in the selection process.

Parent/Guardian Signature:_____ Date:_____

DEADLINE: ALL ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN MARCH 21st.

Any applications postmarked or sent by alternate means after this deadline will not be accepted.

Mail your completed application and necessary attachments to:

Rogers Explorers Program
The Center for Rural Development
2292 S. Highway 27, Suite 300
Somerset, Kentucky 42501

If you have questions, please contact Amy Ellis at The Center for Rural Development at 606-677-6000 or email aellis@centertech.com