

DES Program Overview

The Discoveries in Earth Science (DES) program for elementary through high school students with **visual impairment or blindness** provides a unique opportunity for students in eastern North Carolina to learn Earth science in a university setting. Student participants will develop skills for identifying geologic phenomena and materials. They will learn to use science equipment with accommodations and conduct science activities independently or with minimal assistance. Our staff and program personnel will include faculty and graduate students to support and encourage student experiences in learning Earth science. Additionally, there will be educational specialists with experience working with students with BVI that will be available to assist in our program's mission. By the end of the program, we hope students with BVI will have the tools and skills to successfully conduct scientific activities in Earth Science.

Please send all correspondences regarding the DES Program to:
Rhea Miles, PhD
313 Flanagan Building
Professor
Science Education Program Area
Department of Mathematics, Science and Instructional Technology Education
East Carolina University
Greenville, NC
27858
Phone: (252) 328-9366
Fax: (252) 328-9371
Email: milesr@ecu.edu

Link to application that can be viewed/ downloaded:

<https://go.ecu.edu/DESapp>



East Carolina University is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants, students, or employees based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or disability. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, which accommodates the needs of individuals with disabilities.

Discoveries in Earth Science Program 2022-2023



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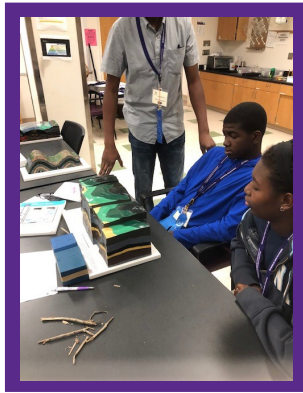
East Carolina University®
Greenville, NC

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Burroughs Welcome Fund
College Arts and Sciences
Geological Sciences
College of Education
Mathematics Science Instructional and Technology Education Dept.

Program Overview

The goal of the DES program is to increase competence in science for **students with visual impairment blindness or** , develop participants' skills to independently conduct Earth science activities, assist participants with analyzing scientific data, and prepare participants for the scientific workforce.



Program Activities

The DES program will involve 'hands on' activities that include development of skills to:

- Identify rocks, minerals and fossils
- Read topographic maps
- Measure water levels in groundwater wells
- Measure and record water quality parameters

By the end of the program, we hope students with BVI will be able to participate in activities with minimal or no assistance from program personnel.

Program Dates and Times

The 2022-2023 program will run for three weeks from Monday to Friday on the campus of East Carolina University. The program dates are

- **July 10 (orientation)**
- **July 11-15**
- **July 18-22**
- **July 25-29**

Between **August** and **April**, the students will meet with program personnel preferably at the students' local county **TWICE** a month to discuss and collaborate on future program projects.

Cost: The program is **free** to participants. **Free** transportation, **free** breakfast, and **free** lunch will be provided to participants.

Student Eligibility Criteria

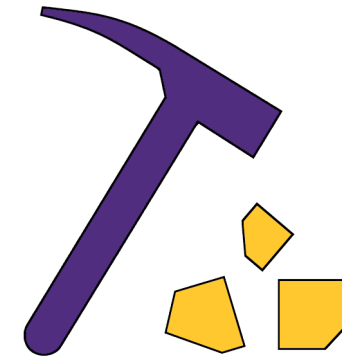
- Must be in 2nd through 11th grade and **identified as legally blind or visually impaired**
- Displays an interest in science, and wants to acquire skills to improve academic achievement in science.

Parental Involvement

Parents are expected to participate in a student orientation prior to the start of the DES program. Parents will be invited to sessions during the summer and academic year.

Application Process

Any student interested in attending the program must submit a completed application by **May 6, 2022**. A link is provided below to view or download the application. Applications must be submitted by email to milesr@ecu.edu



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