



Marin School of Environmental Leadership

2019-2020 Application for Admission

Overview

Thank you for applying to the Marin School of Environmental Leadership (MarinSEL). MarinSEL is a school within Terra Linda High School that combines the breadth and diversity of public education with rigorous academics integrated in a project-based educational curriculum designed to produce academic success while incorporating environmental and leadership components.

Applicants to MarinSEL should follow the normal registration procedures for enrollment at Terra Linda High School. *PLEASE NOTE: Students residing outside of San Rafael City Schools District are not eligible for acceptance due to the District of Choice law ending this school year.*

Who is a MarinSEL Student?

MarinSEL students are engaged, hardworking, and team-focused individuals who value education and active participation. Over 80% of MarinSEL students participate in an after-school club and/or sport, and have a desire to extend their education beyond high school. MarinSEL students are expected to maintain an intensive academic schedule, balancing group project work, community engagement, and extracurricular pursuits. Participation in numerous experiential learning activities outside of the classroom will require MarinSEL students to possess strong leadership skills. Students must be interested in exploring their relationship with the natural world as environmental stewards, as these topics are integrated into all aspects of the curricula. Applicants must also value service learning and be prepared to engage in community-based projects in addition to their classroom learning. MarinSEL applicants should be committed to completing all four (4) years and maintaining a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) while enrolled in this challenging four-year school.



Application Components: *

- Candidate Questionnaire and Short Essay Questions
- Parent/Guardian Questionnaire
- One (1) Teacher Assessment

**The Marin School of Environmental Leadership is not responsible for lost, misplaced, or late application components.*

***This application must be submitted by Friday, January 11, 2019 by email to:
admissions@thesel.org***

Exploration Day

Students seeking admission to MarinSEL must attend an Exploration Day. At Exploration Day the MarinSEL Admissions Committee will review applicant information and provide applicants with an opportunity to explore and demonstrate their interest in the MarinSEL program. Additionally, Exploration Day provides applicants and their families with the opportunity to learn more about MarinSEL.

Exploration Day will start with a 15-minute check-in and informational presentation about the MarinSEL program. Parents, guardians, and immediate family members of applicants are welcome to attend this presentation. Following the presentation, parents and guardians will be excused and applicants will participate in two (2) individual activities and two (2) team activities. These activities provide applicants with the opportunity to share their enthusiasm for MarinSEL. Each activity is described below:

Individual Activities:

- Writing: Applicants will be asked to write a short essay based on a question provided on the day of at Exploration Day. Paragraphs should reflect the applicant's enthusiasm for their education and their environmental concerns.
- Interview: Applicants will participate in an individual conversation with a MarinSEL staff member. This discussion will give students the opportunity to verbally share who they are, their interests, previous projects involving the environment, and to ask any questions they may have.



Team Activities:

- Case Study: Applicants will be grouped into teams and each team will be presented with an issue that is current and relevant in the community. Team members will work together to develop an understanding of the subject and be creative in coming up with solutions to the issue. Each team will present their solutions to their peers.
- Design: Teams will be presented with supplies, tools, and a challenge. Team members will work together to design and build a solution to the challenge. For example, students might be asked to build a sculpture out of reused materials.

The last 45 minutes of Exploration Day will bring all applicants together in a group to discuss what was learned in the team activities. All applicants will share their thoughts and experiences with the group. Parents/guardians are welcome to observe the presentations given at the end of the day.

Selection Process

Acceptance to MarinSEL is determined by the MarinSEL Admissions Committee, based on the submitted application materials, demonstrated communication skills, and participation in Exploration Day. After receiving and reviewing the completed application packets, the MarinSEL Admission Committee will send a formal invitation to the applicant to attend Exploration Day. The Admissions Committee will be looking for an expressed commitment to the four-year program by the applicant and a strong interest in team-based project learning, focusing on the environment.

Cost

There is no cost to apply to MarinSEL. MarinSEL is part of Terra Linda High School in the San Rafael City Schools District, a public-school district. The MarinSEL program costs \$2,750 per student, per year. In order to keep our program at the highest level possible for all of our students, each family is asked to contribute the entire \$2,750, though the minimum ask is \$950 per student, per year. We know not every family is able to contribute at a high level, but we ask every family to contribute.

The MarinSEL program's main source of funding is through direct family contribution to the Family Giving Campaign. MarinSEL does not receive any funding from Terra Linda High School. All funds go directly to the MarinSEL program.



The Marin School of Environmental Leadership admits students of any race, color, national origin, ethnic origin, creed, and sexual orientation to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities made available at the school. MarinSEL does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnic origin, creed, gender, or sexual orientation, in administration, education, and other school-administered programs.

Ethics and Conduct (MarinSEL Handbook and Contract)

Our code of ethics and conduct exists to provide a supportive learning community based on mutual respect and social responsibility. Students who are accepted into MarinSEL will be issued a student handbook that covers our code of ethics and conduct. Each participating student will be required to read the handbook, sign that they agree to its principles, and enter into a contract with MarinSEL.

Application Review

MarinSEL recognizes the difficulty in evaluating and selecting middle school student applicants for an academically challenging high school curriculum. MarinSEL therefore accepts the right of applicants and their families to submit a written request for an application review if they believe MarinSEL has failed to consider all the aspects of the student's application.

Privacy

All information provided to MarinSEL will be regarded as confidential and will be used exclusively for evaluation and admission purposes only.

Reserved Seats in MarinSEL

A small number of founding families contributed significant time, effort, and resources to launch MarinSEL in 2011. Given the ability of their child to meet minimum requirements, their children will be ensured a place in the school. This benefit will not be extended beyond the founding families.

Additional Information

In the event that MarinSEL does not meet its anticipated revenue goals for the Fall 2019 semester, the school may be forced to increase class size and possibly amend program content and curriculum.



For additional information about MarinSEL, or the application and admission process, please visit our website at www.thesel.org or contact us at:

Marin School of Environmental Leadership
C/O Strategic Energy Innovations
899 Northgate Drive, Suite 410
San Rafael, CA 94903
Phone: 415-507-2242
Fax: 415-507-1975
Email: admissions@thesel.org



Student Applicant Information

All fields are REQUIRED.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Student Email: _____

Family Information

Parent/Guardian Full Name: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

Home Address: _____

Employer: _____

Occupation: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Parent Email: _____

Second Parent/Guardian Full Name: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

Address: _____

Employer: _____

Occupation: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____



School Information

Name of School: _____

Grade Attending: _____ Grade Point Average (GPA): _____

Years at this school: _____

Applicants wishing to apply to MarinSEL must submit a fully completed application packet by January 11, 2019.

As a necessary component of the application process, applicants must attend one (1) Exploration Day. **Please indicate which Exploration Day the applicant would like to attend:**

Saturday, February 9, 2019 from 12:45PM to 4:30PM at Terra Linda High School

OR

Sunday, February 10, 2019 from 12:45PM to 4:30PM at Terra Linda High School

Please Note: MarinSEL may not be able to be able accommodate all the applicants on their preferred date. Applicants will be granted their Exploration Day preference on a first-come-first-served basis as applications are received. In the event that a large number of applications are received, MarinSEL may schedule a third, additional Exploration Day event.



Student Application Questions

Instructions: Please take time to brainstorm your responses to the following questions. Your answers should be as honest and reflective of who you are as possible. There are no wrong or right answers. Please write your responses in a separate document and limit your answers to the space provided.

1. Why are you applying to MarinSEL?

2. Write about an assignment you loved. What made it special?



4. Describe your proudest moment.

5. Pretend it is the first day of MarinSEL. What is the first thing you want other students to know about you?



6. How did you hear about the MarinSEL program? (Check one.)

Through my current school

Friend

Family

Other

Please describe: _____





Student Agreement

Instructions: This section is for the student who is applying to the Marin School of Environmental Leadership. The applicant must check and initial a response for each of the following statements.

I understand that by accepting admittance to the Marin School of Environmental Leadership I will support MarinSEL by completing a minimum of 10 required hours per year. Check and initial one.

I agree
Initial Here: _____

I do NOT agree
Initial Here: _____

I understand that accepting admittance to the Marin School of Environmental Leadership is a four-year commitment. Check and initial one.

I agree
Initial Here: _____

I do NOT agree
Initial Here: _____

I understand that by accepting admittance to the Marin School of Environmental Leadership I required to take all MarinSEL and Terra Linda High School classes necessary to meet graduation requirements for both. Check and initial one.

I agree
Initial Here: _____

I do NOT agree
Initial Here: _____

I understand that by accepting admittance to the Marin School of Environmental Leadership the required MarinSEL classes may increase in rigor and difficulty (Advance Placement or Honors). Check and initial one.

I agree
Initial Here: _____

I do NOT agree
Initial Here: _____

I understand that I will occasionally be expected to have an extended school day in order to attend the Marin School of Environmental Leadership. Check and initial one.

I agree
Initial Here: _____

I do NOT agree
Initial Here: _____



I understand that I must attend an Exploration Day to complete my application and be considered for admittance. Check and initial one.

I agree

Initial Here: _____

I do NOT agree

Initial Here: _____

I understand that an extension will not be granted for the March 23, 2019 admission decision deadline. Admitted students who wish to defer acceptance to a later date will be placed on a waitlist. Check and initial one.

I agree

Initial Here: _____

I do NOT agree

Initial Here: _____

I understand that I must attend a mandatory Marin School of Environmental Leadership Retreat that takes place before the start of the school year (more information provided upon admittance). Check and initial one.

I agree

Initial Here: _____

I do NOT agree

Initial Here: _____



Parent/Guardian Application Questions

Instructions: Please answer each question candidly and completely. Responses should be kept to the space provided.

What special strengths and talents does your child possess?

Please write a brief description of areas you would like to see your child grow in:



What makes you most proud of your child?

How has your child demonstrated commitment to service?

In talking about MarinSEL, what has your child been most excited about? Please describe.

How do you see your child interacting with their peer group? Are they more introverted or extroverted? Please describe.

Please let us know if there is anything else you would like us to know about your child (including special needs, accessibility, etc.)?



Being an active role model and supporting the program is an essential component of the MarinSEL community. Each MarinSEL parent/guardian must dedicate at least 10 hours of time per year per student in the program. If your student were to be accepted into MarinSEL, please indicate whether you would be able to commit to these 10 hours of time per child. (Please Note: Your student's application will not be affected by your response.)

- Yes, I could commit to at least 10 hours
- No, I could not commit to at least 10 hours

If you answered "No" please explain:

Please indicate any of the activities below that you would be interested in volunteering for:

- Marketing/Communications
- Fundraising
- Event Leader
- Spanish Translator
- Data Entry
- Database Management
- Web/Graphic Design
- Class Ambassador
- Classroom Support
- Writing
- Other: Please indicate: _____

How did you hear about MarinSEL? (Check one.)

- Friend
- Family
- My Student
- Other

Please indicate: _____



Parent/Guardian Agreement

Instructions: This section is for the parent/guardian of the applicant. The parent/guardian must check and initial a response for each of the following statements.

The Marin School of Environmental Leadership will provide a student/parent/guardian directory with the students' and parents' names, emails, phone numbers, and addresses. Check and initial one.

I agree to being in the directory
Initial Here: _____

I do not want to be in the directory
Initial Here: _____

I understand that my student will occasionally be expected to have an extended school day in order to attend the Marin School of Environmental Leadership. Check and initial one.

I agree
Initial Here: _____

I do NOT agree
Initial Here: _____

I understand that accepting admittance to the Marin School of Environmental Leadership is a four-year commitment. Check and initial one.

I agree
Initial Here: _____

I do NOT agree
Initial Here: _____

I grant the Marin School of Environmental Leadership access to and the ability to review my child's academic records. Check and initial one.

I agree
Initial Here: _____

I do NOT agree
Initial Here: _____

I understand that by accepting admittance to the Marin School of Environmental Leadership my student is required take all MarinSEL and Terra Linda High School classes necessary to meet graduation requirements. Check and initial one.

I agree
Initial Here: _____

I do NOT agree
Initial Here: _____



I understand that by accepting admittance to the Marin School of Environmental Leadership I will support MarinSEL by dedicating at least 10 hours of time per year, for every student I have in the program. Check and initial one.

I agree
Initial Here: _____

I do NOT agree
Initial Here: _____

I understand that my student must attend an Exploration Day to complete the application and be considered for admittance. Check and initial one.

I agree
Initial Here: _____

I do NOT agree
Initial Here: _____

I understand that an extension will not be granted for the March 23, 2019 admission decision deadline. Admitted students who wish to defer acceptance to a later date will be placed on a waitlist. Check and initial one.

I agree
Initial Here: _____

I do NOT agree
Initial Here: _____

I understand that the Marin School of Environmental Leadership school year begins with a mandatory retreat that costs \$375 and will take place from before the start of the school year. Check and initial one.

I agree
Initial Here: _____

I do NOT agree
Initial Here: _____

I will be requesting financial aid based on the State of California's National School Breakfast and Lunch Program (Free and Reduced Lunch Program) eligibility requirements.
Initial Here: _____



I understand that although there is no application fee, the MarinSEL program costs \$2,750 per student, per year. In order to keep our program at the highest caliber possible for all of our students each family is asked to contribute the entire \$2,750 per student per year, though the minimum ask is \$950 per student per year. Check and initial one.

I agree
Initial Here: _____

I do NOT agree
Initial Here: _____

I will be requesting financial aid based on the State of California's National School Breakfast and Lunch Program (Free and Reduced Lunch Program) eligibility requirements.
Initial Here: _____

I grant permission to the Admissions Committee of MarinSEL to access and review my child's academic records. Check and initial one.

I agree
Initial Here: _____

I do NOT agree
Initial Here: _____



Application for Admission

Teacher Assessment

Dear Teacher,

This student is in the process of applying to the Marin School of Environmental Leadership (MarinSEL). As part of the application process, students are required to submit one (1) teacher assessment, filled out by a teacher of their choosing. This student is requesting that you fill out this assessment as it will be submitted as a required component of their application.

MarinSEL is a unique “school within a school” or a magnet school located within Terra Linda High School in San Rafael, California. MarinSEL seeks to incorporate rigorous academics in a project-based educational curriculum designed to produce academic success and leadership. MarinSEL students are required to maintain a 3.0 grade point average, and will be expected to demonstrate self-motivation, enthusiasm, and the ability to work cooperatively with classmates. With this in mind, please honestly and truthfully fill out this assessment.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this assessment. Your feedback on students is valuable to the MarinSEL program.

Please Note: Your responses are **CONFIDENTIAL**.

Please email this form by **JANUARY 11, 2019** to admissions@thesel.org. Or send by mail to:

Marin School of Environmental Leadership
C/O Strategic Energy Innovations
899 Northgate Drive, Suite 410
San Rafael, CA 94903

Teacher Assessment

Student Full Name: _____

Teacher Full Name: _____

School, Grade, Subject: _____

Number of years you have known the applicant: _____



Teacher Assessment

Directions: Please answer each question truthfully, circling which answer best fits the student.

1. Please Rate the applicant's ability to complete assignments and use time in the classroom effectively. (1 = does not complete assignments or use time effectively, 5 = does complete assignments and uses time effectively)

1 2 3 4 5

2. Please rate the applicant's ability to work collaboratively and productively in groups. (1 = does not work collaboratively or productively, 5 = does work collaboratively and productively)

1 2 3 4 5

3. Please select whether applicant is more introverted or extroverted.

– Highly Introverted

– Somewhat Introverted

– Not Clearly One or the Other

– Somewhat Extroverted

– Highly Extroverted

4. Please rate the applicant's level of participation in leadership activities (e.g. volunteering, community service, sports, afterschool clubs, extracurriculars, etc.) (1 = does not participate in leadership activities, 5 = highly involved in leadership activities).

1 2 3 4 5



5. Please rate the applicant as compared to other students you have taught. Circle one.

- Do Not Recommend
- Below Average
- Average
- Top 5%, Recommend
- Top 1%, Highest Recommendation

6. Is there any additional information you think may be helpful for us to know in making our admissions decision? If so, please let us know in the space below.

Thank you for your time.

This teacher assessment must be submitted by Friday, January 11, 2019.