I. Overview

A. The JASON Project Argonaut Program Overview:

The Argonaut Program is a key educational component of The JASON Project. Each year, a select group of National Student and Educator Argonauts have the unique opportunity to work directly with the world’s leading scientists in the field and then to share what they’ve learned with students in classrooms and after-school settings around the world via multimedia technologies. These JASON Argonauts serve as ambassadors for The JASON Project and role models for students and educators participating in the program; Argonauts interact with the JASON community through speaking engagements, online posts, and other multimedia technologies.

B. JASON National Educator Argonaut Program:

As part of the JASON Project’s National Argonaut Program, Educator Argonauts have the unique opportunity to work side by side with scientists in the field and with JASON staff to create programming for students and educators around the world. During the field experience, Educator Argonauts spend up to ten days in the field. JASON pays for all travel, lodging, food (meals and snacks), and programming/equipment costs related to the JASON Argonaut experience. Below is a summary of the Argonauts’ main activities:

- The JASON Argonaut field experience will take place in summer or fall of 2013 or 2014 at (a) location(s) where scientists perform their scientific work. Argonauts may be grouped into teams to participate in the field experience.

- During and after their field experience, the Argonauts work with JASON Staff to edit programming materials in which they are highlighted.

- The Argonauts relay their first-hand experiences to the JASON community, thus serving as role models and mentors to students studying JASON curriculum.

- Argonauts may also be asked to participate in educational or scientific conferences, events, or other speaking engagements.

- Upon completion of the program, educators receive a certificate and become Argonaut Alumni.
II. Who Should Apply

JASON is seeking a diverse group of educators who:

- Demonstrate outstanding performance in working with students
- Demonstrate a strong interest in and/or ability in science
- Possess excellent leadership and teamwork skills
- Are self-motivated, creative, and adventurous, taking personal initiative to meet challenges and overcome obstacles.
- Possess excellent communication skills and are comfortable in front of a camera
- Exhibit an eagerness to participate in field activities which may be outdoors and/or strenuous in nature; activities, locations, or conditions may include, but are not limited to:
  - snorkeling
  - swimming
  - rock climbing
  - extensive hiking/backpacking
  - underground (caves or mines)
  - small/confined spaces
  - heights
  - adverse weather conditions (temperature extremes, rain, wind, etc.)
- Are comfortable with the idea of being on a boat and/or have prior experience on boats
- Possess or can obtain a passport and are willing and able to travel to an international location
- Three to five years of experience, including this year, working with students, including plans to continue as an educator in the 2013-2014 school year and have used JASON and/or its Immersion Learning program in an educational setting

III. How to Apply

A. Application Requirements:

All educators seeking to apply to the JASON National Argonaut program must meet the following requirements. Failure to meet any of these requirements may result in the application being disqualified.

1. Experience: Educator applicants must have been working with students in a classroom or after-school setting for a minimum of three to five years, including this year.

2. Future Plans: Educator applicants should be presently employed, with plans to remain employed for the coming school year as an educator.

3. Application Materials: Educators must complete all application materials and submit them by Monday, March 18, 2013. Below is a list of all application materials that must be completed, along with instructions for how and where the materials should be submitted:

   Educator Argonaut Information Form and Video – send via e-mail by Monday, March 18, 2013
   - Educator Argonaut Information Form: The educator should complete the Educator Argonaut Information Form electronically in Microsoft Word.
   - Personal Educator Video: Educators must complete a short video describing why they want to be an Argonaut. See the Educator Application Materials document for more details. Educators should upload their video to an online video sharing site such as YouTube or Vimeo. Note that Vimeo allows you to easily password-protect your video if you would like to keep it private.
   - E-mail the Educator Argonaut Information Form and Personal Educator Video URL (and password, if applicable) to karen.d.jacobs@aliefisd.net by Monday, March 18, 2013 using the Subject Line “[NAME OF EDUCATOR] Argonaut Materials”
Educator Application Materials – send to Dr. Karen Jacobs at the Alief Administration Building by Monday, March 18, 2013

- **Application Checklist**: This will help you keep track of the different materials you need to submit.
- **Work and JASON/Immersion Experience Surveys**: These will help JASON staff get to know you as an educator.
- **Essays 1 and 2**: Because JASON Argonauts contribute to message boards, Facebook postings, and online journals, we would like to see how well you write about yourself and your experiences.
- **Two Recommendations**: Complete the top portion of these forms and present them to two recommending supervisors. One of these recommendations must be from your current supervisor (i.e., principal, site director, etc.). The second recommendation can be from any supervisor that can address your qualifications as an educator. Supervisors will complete and sign the bottom of the form and attach a sealed letter of recommendation for the educator.
- **Résumé or CV**: Submit an up-to-date copy of your résumé or CV.
- **Future Commitments**: Please detail any anticipated commitments such as programs, awards, or trips.
- **Administrator Statement of Support**: Your supervisor or school administrator should sign the provided letter indicating their full support of your application.
- **Doctor’s Statement**: Complete this form and present it to your doctor. The doctor should attach a statement that you will be able to participate in possibly strenuous activities outdoors (e.g., in the water, on a boat, in high humidity, etc.) and identify any known limitations.
- **Statement of Understanding**: Read and sign this statement.
- **Recent Color Photo of Applicant**: Please note that your photo will be used to accelerate the release of information to the press once the selection process is completed. Please write your name on the back of the photo. Please also make sure this photo is available in digital format should we request it.

B. Submission Instructions:

1. Educators should have all materials completed and compiled by **Monday, March 18, 2013**.

2. Educators should then submit the materials as follows:
   - E-mail Educator Argonaut Information Form and URL of Personal Educator Video (and password, if applicable) to [karen.d.jacobs@aliefisd.net](mailto:karen.d.jacobs@aliefisd.net) by **Monday, March 18, 2013**; use the Subject Line “[NAME OF EDUCATOR] Argonaut Materials”
   - Compile all other materials in ONE envelope and bring to the Alief ISD Administration Building- Instruction Department by **Monday, March 18, 2013** to:
     - Attn: Karen Jacobs, Ph.D.
     - Secondary Science Coordinator c/o The JASON Project

Please arrange materials in the order listed below. For ease of processing, please do not staple, bind, or laminate application materials.

1. Application Checklist
2. JASON/Immersion Experience Surveys
3. Essays 1 and 2
4. Educator Video
5. Two recommendations
6. Résumé or CV
7. Administrator Statement of Support
8. Future Commitments
9. Doctor’s statement
10. Statement of Understanding
11. Color photo of applicant
C. Application Timeline:

**Monday, March 18, 2013** – Deadline for submitting completed National Argonaut Applications

**Mid-March** – Phone interviews with National Educator Argonaut finalists; selection and announcement to follow

D. Privacy:

The JASON Project recognizes the importance of maintaining the privacy of users. We have created this privacy statement in order to demonstrate our commitment to privacy by disclosing the privacy practices of The JASON Project. By filling out and sending in this application, you consent and agree to the terms of this Privacy Policy.

We gather personal information to allow us to process your application, to provide information about our other educational offerings, and to inform you of future programs that might be of interest to you. From time to time, you may receive e-mail and other mailings from The JASON Project, Sea Research Foundation, and/or National Geographic Society.

We will not sell or distribute your personal information to other organizations for any purpose that is not related to The JASON Project, Sea Research Foundation, or National Geographic Society. Your personal information is not available to anyone except staff, contractors, and volunteers assisting with The JASON Project.

*Please contact karen.d.jacobs@aliefisd.net or gelyn.cornell@aliefisd.net if you have any questions regarding the application process.*