

The Academy at SOAR Student Profile

Students:

The Academy at SOAR is a residential, academic adventure program serving youth with learning disabilities and/or attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder. SOAR serves both males and females, ages 12 – 18. Program sites include: North Carolina, Florida, Costa Rica, Belize, West Virginia, Texas and Arizona just to name a few. SOAR students generally enjoy the out-of-doors, value physical activity, and thrive in a small group environment.

Cognitive Skills:

SOAR students possess average to above average cognitive skills as measured on the WISC, WAIS, or similar psycho-educational instruments. The development of Life Success Attributes is a centerpiece of SOAR's cognitive emphasis.

Academic Profile:

Every student receives instruction specific to his or her unique learning style and needs. To be eligible for admission, students must have adequate cognitive skills and be within 3 years of their actual grade level in reading. Many students are kinesthetic and/or experiential learners, who benefit from a hands-on approach to learning.

Creative Profile:

The Academy at SOAR utilizes the natural environment and adventure activities to provide opportunities for success and facilitate personal growth and development. SOAR encourages students to explore their incredible talents and gifts with the belief that their future is intertwined with these strengths and abilities. Activities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, whitewater rafting, caving, rock climbing, sea kayaking, snorkeling, and fishing.

Emotional Profile:

Successful students are emotionally healthy and motivated to learn. Although students may have experienced lowered self-esteem and academic frustration prior to attending SOAR, they are essentially well-adjusted individuals. Co-morbidity with depression, anxiety, Asperger's, and other similar conditions is not uncommon. SOAR is not a treatment program for drug addiction or severe behavioral and conduct disorders.

Behavioral Profile:

Students generally choose to participate in SOAR programs, whether it be the Academy or summer. Some students demonstrate minor non-compliance as part of their profile. Others have developed avoidance mechanisms due to frequent past failures. Students requiring constant one-on-one interventions or diagnosed with Oppositional Defiant Disorder, Conduct Disorder, or other similar behavioral or emotional handicap are not a good fit for the SOAR program.

Exclusionary Criteria

In order to provide a safe, effective environment for students and staff we do not accept students with: Active Suicidal Ideation / Attempts, Psychotic symptoms, Acute/Chronic Violence. Medical conditions such as Diabetes (insulin-dependent), Epilepsy, Cardiac Conditions, or other conditions may prevent students from being accepted.