NHAS Policies and Code of Conduct

Laboratory Safety and Dress Code

Laboratory safety is of paramount importance. You MUST follow the rules listed below for appropriate dress in the laboratory. One overarching rule is that to be a participant at the STEM Center you should look professional and any type of clothing that does not fit that guideline should not be worn when you are at the STEM Center.

If you arrive at the Center with inappropriate clothing, you must be able to rectify the situation before participating. Nearly all of the dress code issues listed below, except footwear and safety eye-wear, can be satisfied if you wear a lab coat.

- Shoes or sneakers, not sandals or open shoes, are required in the lab at all times.
- Tasteful un-collared shirts (e.g., T-shirts) are acceptable.
- Due to the probable spillage of water and the floor becoming slippery, rubber-soled shoes, such as tennis shoes and light weight hiking shoes, are recommended. Always keep your footwear on.
- Shorts or skirts are not recommended and if worn to the lab, you must wear a lab coat. They will not keep solutions from splattering on your legs. Blue jeans or long pants are the best type of lab wear. Leggings or leotards are not good protection and are not recommended. If you do wear them to the lab you must wear a lab coat.
- Belly-button policy: Shirts that expose your midriff are not recommended in the lab. The bench top is near your waist level, so spills there will be common. A buttoned lab coat covering the midriff is acceptable.
- Safety glasses are required when working in the lab with any equipment at all times in the lab. You may take your safety glasses off when at the computer stations in the computer work station section only.
- Long hair should by tied back, braided and out of the way, or in some other fashion arranged so it does not hang in front of your face.
- If you are wearing contact lenses in the lab, you must notify the instructor and should remember to always wear your safety glasses.
- Prescription safety glasses are acceptable.
- Remember, you are also on the campus of Crossroads Academy and when you are on their campus dress in good taste and do not wear any inappropriate clothing. If you have to think about whether an article of clothing is appropriate, it probably isn’t.
- Participants shall make a sincere effort to use all lab equipment with care and report any malfunction to the lab staff.
Advanced Research Costs
The tuition payments will cover the entire cost of a standard research experience such as sterile pipets, chemicals, and biological supplies. In the event that a participant plans to pursue an unusual avenue that incurs greater expense than the standard research experience, the participant will be given the option of their paying for the expenses to continue or mentored to pursue a different approach of research.

Standards for Participant Conduct
Honesty, respect, and adherence to the scientific integrity are paramount to your participation in our STEM Center.

Each participant is expected to:
1. Behave in a responsible manner, always exercising self-discipline especially when working with scientific equipment.
2. Attend safety training prior to beginning any work in the Laboratory.
3. Adhere to the dress code stated above.
4. Follow all directions by the science instructors/staff regarding safe use and proper operating procedures of the laboratory.
5. Respect the campus of Crossroads Academy and abide by their rules as they might apply when on their campus.
6. Respect the rights of students, teachers, and other Crossroads employees while on their campus.
7. Respect the property of others, including Laboratory instruments and facilities.

Regard for Authority
Participants shall at all time sincerely try to follow standard lab procedures and the instructions of the lab personnel.
Participants should not:
1. Fail to comply with directives given by lab/Center personnel.
2. Leave campus grounds without notifying a lab instructor or staff.

Treatment of Others
Participants shall at all times act as professional, responsible, scientists-in-training and never engage in bullying or harassment of any kind, as well as never putting others in jeopardy of harm by misuse of lab equipment.