



Recommendation Form

This form should be given to teachers and/or community members who can provide insight for your success.

APPLICANT NAME: _____

Dear Referee:

The above student is applying to the Offshore Program at North Haven Community School (NHCS), on the island of North Haven, Maine. The program is designed for high school students in grades 9-12. They are welcome to join us for one year or multiple. Our program offers capable, creative, and resourceful high school students to investigate marine and environmental sciences, sustainability, and conservation through a highly personalized interdisciplinary and experiential curricula. The program will include extensive partnerships and participation with the Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership, as well as other local community partners.

The Offshore Year is an entirely unique setting for living and learning. NHCS is located on an island that is 12-miles offshore from Rockland, Maine; therefore, it is only accessible by ferry three times daily. The ferry ride takes just over one hour. The island has roughly 400 year-round residents and the school itself enrolls approximately 60 students K to 12. All students at NHCS benefit from an extraordinarily low student to teacher ratio, which hovers around 4:1.

The North Haven community relies heavily on three industries for its economic well-being: fishing, farming, and seasonal tourism. The Offshore course of study will therefore consist of fully integrated projects and investigations centered around sustainability and survivability of the island's unique culture.

Students will reside together in a communal house right in the village, just a short walk from the North Haven ferry terminal. They will be supervised by a "house parent," as well as receiving support and supervision from various other members of the school community. Offshore students will work closely with their local peers on all projects, courses, and assignments related to the Offshore Year and in core academic classes. We expect prospective students to be creative, sociable, curious, self-disciplined, and community-oriented. Aspects of their work in the program will require civic participation and engagement on issues related to island life.

Your recommendation is an essential component of the application process. We appreciate your insight and feedback on this student's academic and personal attributes. All comments are confidential. Thank you for your consideration.

Very Respectfully,

The Offshore Program at North Haven Community School

You may use the following questions as prompts, or write your own narrative regarding the applicant's strengths, character, intellectual curiosity, and potential areas of growth.

- How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity?
- Please comment on the student's academic ability and motivation, and on the quality of the student's work.
- Identify some of the student's strengths and potential areas of growth.
- Please comment on the student's character and ability to work with and learn from others.
- Are there aspects of the Offshore Program that you anticipate may be challenging for the student?
- Do you have concerns about the student's emotional well-being or ability to live in a close-knit island community with other students?

Please submit your narrative including your name, position, and contact information, via your school email account directly to the Offshore Program at North Haven Community School, offshore@hcshawks.org (preferable). You may also send a hard copy of your recommendation to the address below.

We appreciate your time and effort with completing this recommendation. Your insights are essential to the student's overall application.

Very Respectfully,

**Offshore Year Program at North Haven Community School
93 Pulpit Harbor Road
North Haven, ME 04853**