



Summer of Community Health Exploration Academy (SOCHEA)

What is SAAHEC?

Established on September 1, 2021, the Southern Arizona Area Health Education Center (SAAHEC) at El Rio is one of six regional Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) within Arizona. SAAHEC is focused on developing integrated, sustainable health professions workforce education and pipeline programs throughout the state. SAAHEC is committed to serving Cochise, Pima, and Santa Cruz counties.

What is SOCHEA?

The Summer of Community Health Exploration Academy (SOCHEA) is a one-week program designed to give teenagers in Pima County an insight into health careers. This program focuses on the role of health providers in a community health center setting, provides college preparedness opportunities, university and college campus tours, team building activities, and an opportunity to engage with peers with similar goals.

This program is for students that are interested in exploring health careers. Selected applicants will need to provide their own transportation to and from the program. All other expenses during the week-long program, including meals, materials, and transportation to program activities are covered by SAAHEC.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be incoming Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors in high school in the academic year 2025-2026.
- Submit a complete application by **4/1/25 by 5PM** (please submit the appropriate application for your cohort).
- Applicants must be able to commit to a full week of activities 8AM - 4PM.
- Selected participants will need to provide their own transportation to and from the program (SOCHEA will take place at El Rio Health - Cherrybell).
- SOCHEA 2025 for incoming **Freshmen and Sophomores** will occur on **6/23/25 - 6/27/25**
- SOCHEA 2025 for incoming **Juniors and Seniors** will occur on **7/14/25 - 7/18/25**

Applications:

Freshmen and Sophomores Application:

<https://zfrmz.com/Td1rRlBZaJn9YIF2vLSG>



Juniors and Seniors Application:

<https://zfrmz.com/kz1VMacU9TyM0fACd4Bx>



Questions?
Email us at:
saahec@elrio.org

