CREEK CONNECTIONS

Teacher's Memo

To: Creek Connections Teachers
From: Wendy Kedzierski Laura Branby
Project Assistants
Re: 2nd Newsletter & Symposia Dates

December 12, 2018

CREEK CAMP

The 2019 Creek Camps at Allegheny College are set for this summer (Session I June 23-June 28, Session II July 7-12). Let students know about this opportunity. We are working on being able to offer a college credit for the experience. They can get more information on-line at http://sites.allegenhy.edu/creekconnections/creek-camp/. We accept current 9th, 10th, & 11th graders. They can be from anywhere. Tell your family and friends – even if they are out of state. We are looking forward to sharing these experiences with more students. You can check out photos from past Creek Camps at the link above. We rely on you to promote camp to students. At this age they really don’t seek these opportunities out without a push from someone!

SEND IN DATA IMMEDIATELY

Several teachers have yet to submit data this school year. Please send in your data immediately. Enter data on the on-line data submission page or copy your data sheet and mail it in – Creek Connections, Allegheny College, 520 N Main ST, Meadville PA 16335. You may also scan and email data sheets to creek@allegheny.edu. We’ll take the data in any form, just please get it in!

SPRING SYMPOSIA

The dates have been set. The Allegheny College symposium will take place April 5, 2019, and Pittsburgh area symposium at YMCA Camp Kon-O-Kwee near Zelienople will take place April 12, 2019. You and your students can attend either symposium. Mark your calendars, make arrangements, and get the students working on those independent projects. Additional information will be coming in January. All participating schools are required to send around 20 students to one of the symposia and bring displays presenting the results of their independent research projects. We will be having oral presentations at BOTH symposia and would like to have new schools participate in this aspect of the day so please encourage your students to prepare oral presentations as well as their interactive displays. Display boards are available now. Let us know how many you need and we’ll bring them to you.

MODULES ON THE MOVE

We have replicated another module and are working on more! We received a grant from the Grable Foundation which includes funding for replicating more modules to be housed in the Pittsburgh area. We love that the modules are as popular as ever! Please encourage other teachers at your school or elsewhere to borrow any of the modules. This is part of our outreach to all schools, not just those participating in our program. Check the module calendars online but also ask us if you aren’t sure because ALL the modules are available to borrow in any area.
**SAMPLING DATES**

Please send Wendy & Laura your upcoming sampling dates so Creek Connections staff can assist you at your outings or in the classroom. You can also contact Wendy via email (wkedzier@allegheny.edu) or telephone (814.332.5351) to request Creek staff help.

**2019 FISHING LICENSES**

Fishing licenses are now on sale in stores and online at: [http://fishandboat.com/license.htm](http://fishandboat.com/license.htm). The license, which is required when kicknetting or sampling aquatic macroinvertebrates with a net smaller than 4’x4’ (if you use a larger net you need another permit). If you your stream is a trout stream, you should also get the trout stamp, and if your stream is a tributary of Lake Erie, you should get the Lake Erie permit as well. You MUST have a fishing license in your possession when leading your class in collecting macroinvertebrates even if you don’t plan to keep any samples. You can keep up to 50 macroinvertebrates with your fishing license. If you plan to keep more than 50 you must get a Scientific Collectors’ Permit: [https://www.scicoll.pa.gov/Account/Login.aspx?returnUrl=/Dashboard.aspx](https://www.scicoll.pa.gov/Account/Login.aspx?returnUrl=/Dashboard.aspx). High School teachers! if you have students who are 16 years old or older that you plan to have sample for macroinvertebrates; you also need to get a Special Permit for Educational Exemption to Fishing License: [https://www.fishandboat.com/Transact/Forms/NonGameForms/Documents/educ_exemp_app.pdf](https://www.fishandboat.com/Transact/Forms/NonGameForms/Documents/educ_exemp_app.pdf).

**CREEK CONNECTIONS STAFF ASSISTANCE**

We have several project assistants ready and willing to come to your classroom and/or field site. They cannot only help you with your water chemistry and macroinvertebrate sampling, but also activities from the modules and with the student independent projects. They are ready to give a presentation to introduce and prepare your students for the symposium. Also, they are always available to give the Creek Connections introduction presentation to your class. The project assistants look forward to their time with the students. Call or email Wendy or Laura to set up a time.

**CREEK SAFETY**

Now that winter weather is upon us, be sure you and your students are extra cautious around the creeks. To be safe, no one should enter the creek at this time of year; use a bailer to obtain your water sample. If we have an EXTRA cold winter and your creek becomes inaccessible due to ice, then it’s fine to miss a month of testing. Safety first!

**STUDENT SURVEY**

If your classes are in semesters, please remember to have your students complete the Student Before/After Project Evaluation either online or on paper before winter break. We can provide paper copies. Links to both are found on the Teacher Resources Center on our website. These surveys help us prove the effectiveness of Creek Connections to our funders.