CREEK CONNECTIONS
Teacher's Memo

To: Creek Connections Teachers  
From: Wendy Kedzierski Laura Branby  
Re: 2020 Symposium Information, Data, Module Availability, Student Feedback Surveys

STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIA
Again this year, Creek Connections will have two Student Research Symposia to choose from:

FRIDAY, APRIL 3 at CAMP KON-O-KWEE near Zelienople
OR
FRIDAY, APRIL 17 at ALLEGHENY COLLEGE in Meadville

All Creek Connections schools are required to attend one of these Symposia.

Please plan to arrive at the Symposium site as early as possible and to stay for the entire day in order to take full advantage of the event.

You are welcome to attend either Symposium with your participating students and are also welcome to send a small delegation of students to the opposite Symposium if interested.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM at CAMP KON-O-KWEE</th>
<th>STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM at ALLEGHENY COLLEGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, April 3, 2020 (8:30am – 1:15pm)</td>
<td>Friday, April 17, 2020 (8:30am – 1:45pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FULL GROUP WELCOME – Dining Hall</td>
<td>FULL GROUP WELCOME &amp; PARTICIPATION AWARDS – Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>ORAL PRESENTATION SESSIONS</td>
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<td>Oral presentations will be divided into 2 sessions. Larger school groups will be split in ½ to attend the sessions and smaller groups will stick together to attend one session. Details will come closer to date once we know how many students will attend.</td>
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<td>RESEARCH DISPLAYS and POSTERS</td>
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<td>Students will have ample opportunity to showcase their research and see other school’s work. Schools will need to bring their own computers. There is wireless internet available in the dining hall. Test this first thing upon arrival; this may not work with all computers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOCUS GROUP ACTIVITIES</td>
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<td>A variety of activities, most outdoors (dress for the weather), some indoors, at various locations at Camp Kon-O-Kwee led by environmental organizations and Allegheny students. 1 hour</td>
<td>A great variety of activities held indoors and outdoors at various locations on or near campus led by Allegheny staff, students and some environmental organizations. 1 hour.</td>
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<td>LUNCH – Dining Hall – provided</td>
<td>LUNCH – Wise Center – provided</td>
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<td>PARTICIPATION AWARDS &amp; DEPART – Dining Hall</td>
<td>GATHER &amp; DEPART – Campus Center Lobby</td>
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</table>
Please ask your school / school district to fund transportation. If you need assistance, and your school will not cover the costs, please let Wendy know (grant funding is available this year for transportation costs).

We are excited about the upcoming Symposia and the chance to showcase the Allegheny College Campus and to take advantage of the wonderful facilities at Camp Kon-O-Kwee. Questions or concerns about either Symposium can be directed to Wendy at 814-332-5351.

**NUMBER OF STUDENTS ATTENDING SYMPOSIUM**
From past experience, we’ve found that a limit of 25-30 students per teacher or adult chaperone allows us to provide a positive learning experience, as well as making it easier for teachers to keep track of students. We would hope that each school would bring a realistic number of students that are genuinely interested in attending and who have earned the privilege to attend. We also expect all students in attendance to be well behaved, follow school policies, show respect for other schools in attendance, and participate fully in the day’s events. Teachers are responsible for their students throughout the day and we expect that you will participate actively in Symposium activities.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SYMPOSIAS WILL BE SENT IN FEBRUARY.**

**NEED TRI-FOLD DISPLAY BOARDS?**
Creek Connections has the cardboard, tri-fold research display boards ready for your students’ tabletop display presentations. Just let us know how many you want.

**SEND IN PICTURES AND SUMMARIES FOR SYMPOSIAS “YEAR IN REVIEW”**
During the Welcome ceremony at both Symposia this year, I’d like to have a brief “Year in Review” PowerPoint presentation that features pictures and/or brief summaries of the activities of ALL Creek Connections participating classes. But, I need your help! Please email in photos and brief summaries of what you’d like me to highlight about your class to Wendy by March 1st. Send in lots of photos and commentaries!

**SUBMIT DATA**
At this point in the school year, you should have collected data on three to five occasions. Please remember that the expectation is eight sampling trips per year. If you collected data during the fall semester and have yet to submit it to Creek Connections, please do so immediately by mailing or faxing in your data sheets or using the online data submission form, which is available from the Water Data tab on the toolbar. Take a moment to review your data posted on-line. If you submitted data before the end of December and it is not yet showing up on-line, we did not receive your data. Please resend these data immediately. Also check on-line data for accuracy. Creek Connections interns double-check all of their work but mistakes still happen from time to time. Contact Wendy if you discover any errors.

**WILLING TO HELP**
For January and the beginning of new semesters, we are more than willing to help out whether it is with sampling, research projects, display creations, data analysis, a Symposium pep talk, or the Interactive Introduction to Creek Connections for new semester classes. We are very eager to work with your students, so just let us know the next time you go out sampling or need some classroom assistance.

Laura Branby = 724-822-3290  Wendy Kedzierski = 814-332-5351

**MODULES, MODULES, MODULES**
Most modules are available. Take advantage of these superb teaching resources! Contact Wendy or submit an on-line module request form today by going to the Watershed Activity Modules section of our website. Each module has its own availability calendar. Please note that Pittsburgh Area Only modules are listed separately.

**CREEK CONNECTIONS STUDENT FEEDBACK**
We eliminated some questions and simplified the survey. If you have a semester-long class, please remember to ask them to take the AFTER survey before class is over. Please ask the new class to take the BEFORE survey at the beginning of the semester. Completely voluntary, but the data is important to evaluating the program and providing data to our funders. You can find the online and a paper version here: [http://bit.ly/39Zp7fN](http://bit.ly/39Zp7fN)