A Watershed Education Project

Creek Connections has forged an effective partnership between Allegheny College and regional K-12 schools to turn waterways into outdoor environmental laboratories. Emphasizing hands-on, inquiry-based investigations, students have the opportunity to practice real science using a natural resource located in their own backyards. The result of this water science education is a productive collaboration leading to a new focus on scientific literacy, environmental stewardship, and research for students at all levels. There is no charge to schools for this program. Creek Connections also has participating teachers in Michigan and Ohio.

College Creekers

Allegheny College students, known as “Creekers,” work for the project every year they are enrolled at Allegheny. The Creekers become experts in the project and form relationships with teachers and other environmental professional partners. Additionally, Creek Connections has partnered with Pittsburgh area colleges to host student interns. The K-12/college student interactions benefit both sides. The Creekers gain education and leadership experience leading activities and lessons, and K-12 students can discover their interest in pursuing a college education.

Creek Connections is supported by:
Allegheny College • Grable Foundation • Frick Fund of the Buhl Foundation • Allegheny County Conservation District • Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation grant program administered by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy • Individual donors

Creek Connections
520 N. Main Street
Meadville, PA 16335
(814) 332-5351 • creek@allegheny.edu
creekconnections.allegheny.edu
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**School Year Program**

**Summer Institute • August**
Teachers come together in August to interact and increase their knowledge.

**Water Quality Monitoring • Eight times during academic year**
Water Chemistry and Aquatic Macroinvertebrates are used to determine stream health. Creek water samples are analyzed to quantify nine key water quality parameters. We assist teachers with a variety of topics to meet their needs, including current environmental topics, local history, or diving deeper into water chemistry or stream biology.

**Student Research Symposia • April**
Students present and display their water data and independent research projects alongside local environmental organizations.

**Hands-On Activity Modules for Loan • Year-round**
- Algae, Plankton, & Aquatic Plants
- Aquaponics & Sustainability
- Aquatic Macroinvertebrates
- Basic Water Chemistry
- Drinking Water
- Drinking Water & Gastronomics
- Groundwater
- Reptiles & Amphibians
- Riparian Buffers
- Stream Geology
- Streamside Critters
- Topographic Maps
- Water Pollution
- Watersheds
- Wetlands

Available to educators in our area at NO FEE
Meet PA Environment & Ecology standards
Two sets move as needed between NW & SW PA

**Freshwater Academy • June–July**
Weeklong residential camp for high school students at Allegheny College
NO FEE
Work alongside Allegheny staff & students

**To Learn More**
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