



CREEK CONNECTIONS

Teacher's Memo

To: Creek Connections Teachers
 From: Wendy Kedzierski Laura Branby
 Re: 2024 Symposium Information, Data, Module Availability, Student Surveys

29 January 2024

STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIA

Creek Connections is hosting two Student Research Symposia to choose from:

FRIDAY, APRIL 12 at CAMP KON-O-KWEE near Zelienople

OR

FRIDAY, APRIL 19 at ALLEGHENY COLLEGE in Meadville

All Creek Connections schools are expected to attend one of these events.

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.

<p align="center"><u>STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM at CAMP KON-O-KWEE – near Zelienople</u></p>	<p align="center"><u>STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM at ALLEGHENY COLLEGE</u></p>
<p align="center">Friday, April 12, 2024 (9:00am – 1:30pm)</p>	<p align="center">Friday, April 19, 2024 (9:00am – 1:30pm)</p>
<p>MORNING WELCOME, PRESENTATIONS & PARTICIPATION AWARDS – arrive at Kramer Hall then to Steeb Hall for presentation sessions. Keynote speaker: Kristina Schultz, US Army Corps of Engineers biologist</p> <p>RESEARCH DISPLAYS and POSTERS Students will have the opportunity to showcase their research and see other students’ projects and interact with environmental professionals from around the region.</p> <p>LUNCH – Kramer Hall – schools provide own lunches</p> <p>FOCUS GROUP ACTIVITIES 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 college Creekers.</p> <p>GATHER & DEPART – from Kramer Hall</p> <p>A list of suggested walks at camp will be provided for those who can stay longer.</p>	<p>FULL GROUP WELCOME & PARTICIPATION AWARDS – Campus Center auditorium. Keynote speaker: Dr. Be Dawson, Allegheny College</p> <p>ORAL PRESENTATION SESSIONS Oral presentations will be divided into 2 sessions. Larger school groups will be split in ½ to attend the sessions and smaller groups can stick together to attend one session.</p> <p>RESEARCH DISPLAYS and POSTERS Students will have the opportunity to showcase their research and see other students’ projects as well as interact with environmental professionals from around the region.</p> <p>LUNCH – Wise Center – schools provide own lunches</p> <p>FOCUS GROUP ACTIVITIES A great variety of activities held indoors and outdoors at various locations on campus led by Allegheny students, faculty and environmental organizations.</p> <p>GATHER & DEPART – from campus center</p>

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.

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 YMCA Camp Kon-O-Kwee. Questions or concerns about either symposium can be directed to Wendy at 814-332-5351.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS ATTENDING SYMPOSIUM

YMCA Camp Kon-O-Kwee is requiring specific adult to student ratios depending on student age.

Students 9-14 years: 1 adult for every 10 students

Students 15-18 years: 1 adult for every 12 students

[YMCA is also requiring a signed waiver for every participant \(students and adults\).](#)

From past experience, we've found that a limit of students per teacher or adult chaperone allows us to provide a positive learning experience, as well as make it easier for teachers to keep track of students. We would hope that each school brings students who 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 others 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.

NEED TRI-FOLD DISPLAY BOARDS?

Creek Connections has the cardboard, tri-fold research display boards ready for your students' tabletop display presentations. As prices of everything have increased, please only request the number you need and if you have a lot of students – have them work in groups.

SEND IN PICTURES AND SUMMARIES FOR SYMPOSIA “YEAR IN REVIEW”

During the welcome ceremony at both symposia this year, we'd like to have a rolling “Year in Review” presentation that features pictures and/or brief summaries of the activities of ALL Creek Connections participating classes. But, we need your help! Please email in photos and brief summaries of what you'd like us 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. Enter data by using the online data submission form (Water Data tab on the website), or scan/photograph and email your data sheet(s), or snail mail your completed data sheets to Wendy. 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

We are ready and willing to help you and your students whether it is with water quality monitoring, research projects, display creations, data analysis, symposium introduction presentation, or the 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 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.