



# CREEK CONNECTIONS

## Teacher's Memo

To: Creek Connections teachers

April 29, 2025

From: Wendy Kedzierski

Laura Branby

Re: Symposia Wrap-up, Creek Days, Evaluations

### WE DID IT!!!

We are SO proud of everyone for the amazing work showcased at our two Student Research Symposia! Weather couldn't stop us this year! Students were engaged and happy to show off their work. The student research, efforts, displays, and presentations were extremely creative and impressive. We love seeing students' pride and enthusiasm for their work. Please express our thanks to all of your students. Special thanks to those students giving oral presentations at Allegheny College! They were fantastic! **Save the dates for 2026: at YMCA Camp Kon-O-Kwee on Friday, April 17 and at Allegheny College on Friday, April 24.**

### TAKE THOSE DISPLAYS ON THE ROAD

Share your students' projects and displays! Peer education and community outreach are an important part of this project and a critical way to share information about the environment with others. Students can share their research and data, or created activities, with other audiences:

- Other classes (not participating in Creek Connections)
- Other grades (high school take projects to the elementary school, etc.)
- School board meeting
- Community group (Elks, Kiwanis, city council, senior center, etc.)
- Community event (fair, festival, etc.)
- Ask if you can set up displays at your local library, city hall, church, etc.
- Set them up at your school for all to see (display case, cafeteria, library, administration building)
- Don't forget about next school year's open houses and parents' nights
- And best of all... you and your students should contact and become involved in a **local watershed association or conservation group** (there are lots of them in the region and some even attended the symposium). Working with them might provide some "real life" experiences for your students.

### KEEP TRACK OF YOUR STATISTICS / OUTREACH

Creek Connections has to include numbers in grant report. If you do any outreach with your creek work and/or symposium projects, **please** record it and the audience numbers. We will ask for this information in the [end-of-year project evaluation](#).

## **STUDENT GAMES, HANDOUTS, FACT SHEETS**

We noticed all the great handouts your students had to offer at their displays! Please send us any that could be used in an upcoming newsletter: crosswords, word finds, infographics, etc. It's a way for us to celebrate their hard work. Email them to Wendy at [creek@allegheny.edu](mailto:creek@allegheny.edu).

## **YOUR SYMPOSIUM EVALUATION**

\*\* An evaluation form for **you** to complete was in your symposium folder. If you did not turn in at the symposium – please mail, or scan and email to Wendy. We value your input. We can send you another if it got lost.

## **SEND US YOUR SUBSTITUTE / BUS BILL**

Limited funds are available to reimburse schools for a substitute and bussing to/from the symposium. Have your administration send us an invoice **as soon as possible**.

## **CREEK DAYS!**

Wendy and Laura work year-round. The Creekers are taking finals, but we're available to help with water chemistry, biological monitoring/kicknetting, and other types of stream assessments.

## **END OF THE YEAR EVALUATION – STUDENTS "AFTER" SURVEY**

Also, find the [link to our student AFTER survey](#) in this email and on our webpage. Data from this anonymous and voluntary survey will help us gain useful information for our funding pursuits.

## **SUMMER INSTITUTE (Teacher Professional Development Workshop)**

The Summer Institute will be held at North Park (Boathouse 2<sup>nd</sup> floor) on Tuesday, July 29. [Register for the day and we'll send details when it gets closer](#). We expect all teachers to attend this event. Inventory your test kits so you can stock up on refills and replacements (send us your list!). Classroom resources and free materials will be available for teachers who attend.

