



CREEK CONNECTIONS

Teacher's Memo

To: Creek Connections teachers

May 3, 2023

From: Wendy Kedzierski

Laura Branby

Re: Symposium Wrap-up & feedback surveys

CONGRATULATIONS ON TWO GREAT SYMPOSIA!

The student research, efforts, displays, and presentations were extremely creative and impressive. Approximately 460 Creek Connections students attended the two Symposia this year and their pride and enthusiasm about their work was plain to see. We hope the event was very beneficial to you and your students. Please express our thanks to all of your students. Special thanks to those students giving oral presentations. We appreciate those willing to step up for that opportunity.

TAKE THOSE DISPLAYS ON THE ROAD

Even though the symposium is over, the sharing of student research does not need to end. Peer education and community outreach are an important part of this project and a critical way to share information about the environment with others. Possibly consider having your students share their research and data or created activities with other audiences:

- Other classes (not participating in Creek Connections)
- Other grades (high school go down to the elementary, etc)
- School board meeting
- Community group (local Rotary, Kiwanis, etc. club, city council, senior center)
- Community event (fair, festival, celebrations, etc.)
- Ask if you can set up their display at your local library, city hall, church, etc.
- Set it up at your school for all to see, in a display case, cafeteria, library, administration building
- Don't forget about next school year's open houses and parent's nights
- And best of all....maybe 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 symposia). Working with them might provide some "real life" experiences for your students. PA Master Watershed Stewards and PA Master Naturalist groups have formed in many of our areas – reach out to them! They would love to work with you.

KEEP TRACK OF YOUR STATISTICS / OUTREACH

Creek Connections has to play the statistics game and crunch numbers, so if you do any outreach with your creek work, please record it and the audience numbers. We will ask for this information in the end of the year project evaluation.

STUDENT GAMES, HANDOUTS, FACT SHEETS

We really took notice of all the great handouts your students had to offer at their displays. We didn't get to pick up one from each display. Please send in any that could be used as a newsletter article, crossword, word find, teaching aid. We would like to put their hard work to use for Creek Connections. I'm sure you and your students would be proud to have their work published in our newsletter. You can mail the handouts to Wendy or if they are available in electronic form – email them to her at creek@allegheny.edu.

YOUR SYMPOSIUM EVALUATION

We included an evaluation form for you to complete in your symposium folder, if you did not turn in that day – please mail or scan and email to Wendy. We value your input.

SEND US YOUR SUBSTITUTE / BUS BILL

We have limited funds to reimburse schools for supplying a substitute and for bussing for the symposium. Have your administration send us an invoice as soon as possible.

STILL HEADING OUT TO THE CREEK?

Any school that is still chemical sampling can contact us for assistance. Most of the Allegheny students are done working for the spring semester today, but we have summer interns starting up again the week of May 15th. Another popular warm weather event that we would be glad to assist with is biological monitoring or other types of stream assessments (geologically, geographically, riparian zones, etc.). This is a busy time of year for everyone, but please let us know if you need our help.

CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION

Contact Wendy if you need more Certificates of Participation for your students. We have a few more on hand to send you.

STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEYS

PLEASE have your students complete the AFTER survey before leaving at the end of year. Find online and paper versions here: <https://sites.allegheny.edu/creekconnections/2019/07/09/student-evaluation-of-creek-connections/>