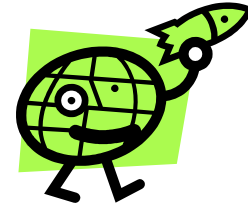




Are We Having Fun Yet? How to Make Science Fun for Elementary Students (and Their Teachers!)



Wednesday, March 24, 2004

Who should attend?

Any educators of youth, grades 3-7, including: elementary school teachers, science teachers, environmental/nature center staff, Extension/4-H staff and volunteers, youth group leaders, etc.

Purpose

You will be introduced to examples of hands-on science curriculum materials and fun learning activities for youth. Be prepared to stretch your mind and get involved in some hands-on activities. The workshop is sponsored by Rutgers Cooperative Extension Department of 4-H Youth Development, a NJ Department of Education Professional Development Provider. Program activities support the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards.

Location

NJ Museum of Agriculture
103 College Farm Rd, North Brunswick, NJ
Directions and other information at <http://agriculturemuseum.org/info.html>



Cost - \$50/ per person

Includes four (4) educational workshops, Science Discovery Series curriculum, morning coffee, lunch, and a brief tour of the museum. Make checks payable to *Rutgers, The State University*.

Tentative Schedule

9:00 – 9:30 a.m. - Registration/refreshments
9:30 – 10:45 a.m. - Welcome/General Session - Unleashing the Power of Experiential Learning
10:45 – 11:00 a.m. – Break
11:00 am – 12 noon - Workshop 1 (from list of workshop choices)
12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. - Lunch/Museum Tour
1:00 – 2:00 p.m. - Workshop Session 2 (from list of workshop choices)
2:00 – 2:15 p.m. – Break
2:15 – 3:15 p.m. - Workshop Session 3 (from list of workshop choices)
3:15 – 3:30 p.m. – Wrap up/Evaluation
Depart 3:30 p.m.

Register no later than March 10 (space is limited – first-come, first-served!)

Your Name:

Title:

Mailing Address:

Phone:

Email:

Choose your preferences of four (4) workshops from the list of choices on the reverse. (We aim to assign you three from your list of choices.)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

By mail: Science Workshop Registration c/o Gloria Minor, 71 Lipman Drive, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8524 (732-932-9705)

By email: Send registration information to minor@rce.rutgers.edu, followed by your mailed check.

- See Other Side for Workshop Choices -

General Session (everyone): Unleashing the Power of Experiential Learning



Does science seem boring or overwhelming to you and your students? Do you find it's often more comfortable to revert back into a lecture mode, or at best, conduct a demonstration or a glorified show-and-tell? You're not alone! Although delving into the world of "experiential learning" can be rewarding and fun for youth, it can be laborious or even nerve-wracking for the teacher, leader, or curriculum developer. Maybe it's because you have little training in teaching science or that you don't know how to go beyond a textbook to make subject matter more than just a collection of facts. This workshop will introduce you to the national 4-H experiential learning model - where youth first experience, then reflect on the new knowledge, and finally apply knowledge and skills learned to other life situations. It will help you develop creative ways to make any subject fun by enabling students to explore new topics and ideas first-hand.

Please provide four (4) of your preferences for the workshop sessions, from the list below:

Astronomy Activities that are Out of This World

How do you successfully introduce astronomy concepts? This workshop will give you fun, easy to do projects and ideas as well as help you become more comfortable teaching astronomy.

Go Wild for Wildlife

This workshop includes hands-on activities that focus on wildlife and their adaptations. Topics that can be taught in both indoor and outdoor environments, such as habitats, predator-prey relationships, and food webs, will be explored.

The Science Behind Growing Plants:

Green Thumb Not Required

This hands-on workshop will teach you how to successfully start plants from seed and how to share the wonder of seeds and germination with your students. It will also show you how to test your own garden soil and the fun science behind soil testing. Lastly, you will learn about how to care for houseplants as we explore the biology of plants. Each participant will receive a six-pack of planted seeds and Rutgers Cooperative Extension gardening publications.

Microscopes and the Miniature World of Science

Youth are not aware of or do not always have the opportunity to explore the "miniature world of science". The I Spy ... Science program introduces youth (grades 4-6) to the exciting world of science utilizing the Scientific Method of Inquiry, magnifying glasses, photomicrographs, and microscopes. This workshop will feature an "I Spy ... Science" lesson including an interactive discussion, identifying photomicrographs, and the opportunity to use magnifying glasses and microscopes to study prepared specimens (insects and arachnids) or specimens collected utilizing one of the techniques discussed during the workshop.

Weatherwise

Ben Franklin said that "some people are weatherwise but others are otherwise." In this workshop, you will become one of the former by learning important topics and concepts related to meteorology, such as clouds, fronts, weather systems, climate, forecasting, etc. Most important, you will learn simple, creative, and fun ways to teach them to kids.

Where Does Your Garbage Go?

In this interactive workshop participants will "talk trash" as they explore the *Where Does Your Garbage Go?* unit of the Science Discovery Series curriculum and learn about waste management alternatives and environmental conservation. You will have a chance to test your knowledge of environmental and waste management terms as you play the Environmental Lingo Bingo Game; use your creative and problem solving skills as a member of a consulting team responsible for designing & constructing a model landfill as well as participate in an environmental town meeting.

Mountains High, Oceans Deep

Oceanography is defined as the study of the ocean from various perspectives. Examine the natural science concepts that pertain to the sea through various hands on activities making science fun in the classroom. Through this interactive workshop you will enhance your understanding and appreciation of the size, scale and significance of the ocean.

As Big As A Whale!

The ocean contains a wide variety of whales, dolphins and porpoises of all sizes and shapes. Through this workshop participants will discover the Order of Cetacea. Various fun, hands on activities will examine the characteristics of whales, the differences between baleen and toothed whales, comparisons between whales and fish, and provide other information about the habitat and habits of these fascinating sea creatures.



For more information about Rutgers Cooperative Extension, 4-H Youth Development, or science education, visit these web sites:
www.rce.rutgers.edu, www.nj4h.rutgers.edu, www.discoveryscience.rutgers.edu

