

Creek Connections

Turning Waterways Into Outdoor Laboratories

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Student Research Symposium:

- Participating schools gather to present projects they have been working on regarding their stream site or other environmental science topics
- Students interact with regional experts in the environmental field, as well as small group break out activities



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Who we are:

- Creek Connections has forged an effective partnership between Allegheny College and regional K-12 schools to turn waterways area into outdoor environmental laboratories
- Emphasizing a hands-on, inquiry based investigation of local waterways, this project annually involves over 40 different secondary schools and the classes of 50 teachers
- Creek Connections is free of charge to all educators

Ongoing Water Quality Monitoring:

- Teachers lead their students (with Creek Connections staff assistance) in monthly water quality monitoring of 8 basic water chemistry parameters
- Many also conduct biological monitoring of aquatic macroinvertebrates



Summer Institute:

- Teachers gather at the end of each summer for refreshers on water quality monitoring, networking and learning about a current topic



Creek Camp:

- Two sessions of residential Creek Camp are offered to rising 10th and 11th grade students each summer
- Campers study fresh water ecology in the beautiful streams of Northwestern PA, observe wildlife, and learn from experts

Staff Assistance:

- We have 2 full-time staff members and 12 Allegheny College students working for the project visiting schools and their stream sites on a regular basis
- We attribute much of our success to our constant interaction with teachers and their students providing valuable experience to our college students as well as personal and hands-on experiences for regional school students

