



Wyoming Department of Education

Dr. Jim McBride, Superintendent of Public Instruction

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2009-116

TO: School District Superintendents
School District Principals

FROM: Jim McBride, Ed.D. 
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Milward Simpson
Director, State Parks and Cultural Resources
Jack Shea
Executive Director, Teton Science Schools

DATE: August 14, 2009

SUBJECT: Wyoming Youth Congress on Children & Nature

TIME SENSITIVE RESPONSE REQUESTED

On behalf of a growing collaboration between state and federal agencies and nonprofit organizations from across the state of Wyoming, we are pleased to furnish additional information about the upcoming Wyoming Youth Congress on Children & Nature (October 15-18, 2009 at Teton Science Schools in Jackson Hole). This packet is a follow up to a letter you received this past May encouraging your participation and assistance.

At the end of last school year, we introduced the idea of the Wyoming Youth Congress and asked that you begin thinking of two eighth graders from your school district (one boy and one girl) who would best represent your school district at this first-of-its-kind program. With the opening of school just around the corner, we are now soliciting your assistance in nominating two participants and two alternates to participate.

Enclosed with this memorandum, please find nomination instructions, nomination forms, contact information for submitting completed forms and a summary agenda of the Wyoming Youth Congress.

We are asking each school district to submit their nominees by September 4, 2009.

Please submit your nominations on the attached forms to Leslie Cook at Teton Science Schools: by mail: 700 Coyote Canyon Road, Jackson, Wyoming 83001; by fax (307) 733-7560 or by

School District Superintendents
District School Principals
Memorandum No. 2009-116
August 14, 2009
Page 2

email at leslie.cook@tetonscience.org. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Leslie Cook at (307) 733-1136.

Thank you for your attention to this request and thank you for contributing to this worthy and timely idea.

Enclosed: **Youth Congress Participant Nomination Forms, Instructions and Program Agenda**

***** TIME SENSITIVE RESPONSE REQUESTED *****

{Please respond by September 4, 2009}

Wyoming Youth Congress on Children & Nature

October 15-18, 2009
Jackson Hole, Wyoming

Student Selection Process

Instructions for School District Superintendents



✓ STUDENT SELECTION PROCESS

In your role as a School District Superintendent, we are asking you to nominate two eighth-grade students (in eighth grade during the 2009-2010 school year) to represent your school district at the first ever Wyoming Youth Congress on Children & Nature. Please confer with principals and others in your district to nominate one (1) male and one (1) female 8th grader plus an alternate pair.

✓ CONGRESSIONAL PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS

We realize that it will not necessarily be possible to find students who meet all of these characteristics. These are included as guidelines that will help ensure the most meaningful participation from and benefit to all of the students in your district.

- Wyoming Native (*or lived in Wyoming at least ¾ of life*)
- Trendsetter
- Capacity for leadership
- Connector among peers and adults
- Friendly and outgoing
- Knows lots of people in and outside of school
- Active in extracurricular activities
- Generally good physical health
- Has a large family
- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Representative of the diversity within your school district
- Interested in participating in the Wyoming Youth Congress on Children & Nature

Please submit the names of the 8th grade student nominees – one (1) male and one (1) female first choice and one (1) male and one (1) female alternate – to Leslie Cook at Teton Science Schools by September 4, 2009 by mail, fax or email using the form on the following page.

✓ PRE-CONGRESS SELECTION TIMELINE

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| September 4 | Nominations to the Wyoming Youth Congress Received by Teton Science Schools |
| Week of September 7 | Teton Science Schools contact nominated students and their families |
| Week of September 21 | Deadline for nominated students to enroll in the Congress and submit travel plans |
| Week of September 28 | Alternate students contacted, as needed |
| Week of October 5 | Final pre-Congress contacts made with participants and their families |
| October 15-18, 2009 | Wyoming Youth Congress on Children and Nature |

Wyoming Youth Congress on Children & Nature Nomination Form for Superintendents

Please write or type in the names and requested information below of one (1) male and one (1) female 8th grade student from your school district to nominate for participation in the Wyoming Youth Congress and one (1) male and one (1) female alternate. Based on your recommendations, Teton Science Schools will contact the nominees directly with information about the Congress and their participation in this first-of-its-kind program.

Please complete and return this form by September 4, 2009

Mail: Leslie Cook
Teton Science Schools
700 Coyote Canyon Road
Jackson, WY 83001

Email: leslie.cook@tetonscience.org
Fax: 307-733-7560

First Choice Male

Nominee Name: _____

Parent or Guardian Names: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: WY Zip: _____

Primary phone: _____ 2nd Phone: _____

Email: _____

First Choice Female

Nominee Name: _____

Parent or Guardian Names: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: WY Zip: _____

Primary phone: _____ 2nd Phone: _____

Email: _____

Alternate Male

Nominee Name: _____

Parent or Guardian Names: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: WY Zip: _____

Primary phone: _____ 2nd Phone: _____

Email: _____

Alternate Female

Nominee Name: _____

Parent or Guardian Names: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: WY Zip: _____

Primary phone: _____ 2nd Phone: _____

Email: _____

Nominating Superintendent Signature: _____

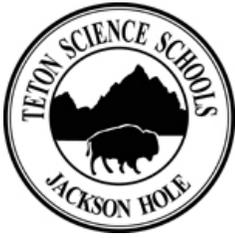
Printed Name: _____ **Date:** _____

School District: _____

Please return this form to Teton Science Schools by September 4, 2009

Mail: Leslie Cook
Teton Science Schools
700 Coyote Canyon Road
Jackson, WY 83001

Email: leslie.cook@tetonscience.org
Fax: 307-733-7560



Wyoming Youth Congress on Children & Nature

October 15-18, 2009
Jackson Hole, Wyoming

AGENDA

DAY 1: Thursday, October 15, 2009

- 5:00 – 6:00 pm** Congressional Participant Arrivals at Teton Science Schools
Statewide van shuttles and local drop off
- 6:00 pm** Welcoming & Orientation: *Why We Are Here*
- 7:00 pm** Wyoming State Dinner, featuring Wyoming-Grown Foods
- 7:45 pm** Keynote Remarks:
The Task at Hand and Why Your Help is Needed
- Larry Selzer, CEO, *The Conservation Fund*
 - Diane Shober, Director, *Wyoming Travel and Tourism*
 - Milward Simpson, Director, *Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources*

DAY 2: Friday, October 16, 2009

- 8:00 am** Breakfast
- 9:00 am – 12:30 pm** Connecting to Nature – Recreation Activity
Outdoor Exploration, Natural History Interpretation & Personal Reflection
- 12:00 pm** Field Lunch
- 1:00 – 3:00 pm** *Exploring the Existence of a Disconnect Between Children and Nature/
Examining Data and Personal Stories*
- 3:30 pm** Depart for Wildlife Watching
- 5:30 pm** Picnic Dinner in the Field
- Evening** Elk Bugling in Grand Teton National Park –

DAY 3: Saturday, October 17, 2009

- 8:00 am** Breakfast
- 9:00 – 12:30 am** Connecting to Nature – Stewardship Activity
Serving the Community and the Natural World with US Forest Service & National Park Service
- 12:00 pm** Field Lunch
- 1:00 – 3:00 pm** Exploring *the Causes of the Disconnect between Children and Nature*
- 3:00 – 5:00 pm** *Nature and Learning*

Options may include:

- Art and Nature with the National Museum of Wildlife Art
- Science and Nature with the Conservation Research Center of Teton Science Schools
- Business and Nature with Hotel Terra
- Health and Nature with Teton County Wellness and Wyoming Department of Health
- Hunting, Fishing and Nature with Wyoming Game and Fish
- Recreation and Nature with Jackson Hole Mountain Resort
- Education and Nature with Wyoming Department of Education and National Outdoor Leadership School

- 6:00 pm** Dinner
- 6:45 pm** *Kids and Nature Film Festival* with Facilitated Discussion

DAY 4: Sunday, October 18, 2009

- 7:30 am** Breakfast
- 8:30 – 9:30 am** Pack and Clean-up
- 9:30 – 10:00 am** Congressional Participant Press Conference
- 10:00 – 11:00 am** Planning for Home: *What You Can Do About the Disconnect and How We Can Stay Connected*
- 11:00 – 11:30 am** Closing
- 11:30 am** Local participant pick-up and statewide van shuttles depart