



Wyoming Department of Education

Dr. Jim McBride, Superintendent of Public Instruction

2020 Grand Avenue, Suite 500

Laramie, WY 82070

Phone 307-777-5296 Fax 307-777-6719 Website www.k12.wy.us

MEMORANDUM NO. 2010-139

TO: School District Superintendents
School District Principals

FROM: Jim McBride, Ed.D. 

DATE: August 23, 2010

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 2nd Wyoming Youth Congress on Children & Nature (October 14-17, 2010, 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.

Last year, we held the first Wyoming Youth Congress and asked you to nominate two eighth graders from your school district (one boy and one girl) to represent your school district at this program. We had participants from 40 of 48 Wyoming school districts, and this year we hope to have participants from all 48 districts. With the opening of school just around the corner, we are now soliciting your assistance in nominating two participants and two alternates to participate in this year's Congress.

Enclosed are 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 its nominees by September 3, 2010.

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 email at leslie.cook@tetonscience.org. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Leslie Cook at (307) 734-3736.

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

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

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

{Please respond by September 3, 2010}

Wyoming Youth Congress on Children & Nature

October 14-17, 2010
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 2010-2011 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 3, 2010 by mail, fax or email using the form on the following page.

✓ PRE-CONGRESS SELECTION TIMELINE

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Fri, September 3, 2010 | Nominations to the Wyoming Youth Congress Received by Teton Science Schools |
| Week of September 6 | Teton Science Schools contact nominated students and their families |
| Fri, September 24, 2010 | Deadline for nominated students to enroll in the Congress and submit travel plans |
| Week of September 27 | Alternate students contacted, as needed |
| Week of October 4 | Final pre-Congress contacts made with participants and their families |
| October 14-17, 2010 | 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 3, 2010

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: _____

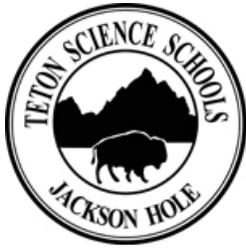
Printed Name: _____ **Date:** _____

School District: _____

Please return this form to Teton Science Schools by September 3, 2010

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 and Nature

October 14-17, 2010

Agenda
{ Tentative }

Teton Science Schools

Introducing the 5H Model: Head, Heart, Hands, Health & Home

Thursday, October 14, 2010

4:00 – 5:00 pm Arrivals
5:00 pm Orientation and Welcome: ***Why We Are Here***
6:00 pm Wyoming State Dinner, featuring Wyoming-Grown Foods
7:00 pm Opening Keynote Presentations & Home Group Meetings:
The Task at Hand and Why Your Help is Needed
(Inspiring the HEAD & HEART)
• Milward Simpson, Director, *Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources*

Friday, October 15, 2010

8:00 am Breakfast
9:00 am – 3:00 pm Connecting to Nature – Recreation Activity: *Outdoor Exploration, Natural History Interpretation and Personal Reflection*
(Strengthening the HEART and Improving HEALTH)
Options to include:
-Coyote Rock in Bridger-Teton National Forest
-Phelps Lake in Grand Teton National Park
-Taggart Lake in Grand Teton National Park
-Gros Ventre Slide in Bridger-Teton National Forest
12:00 pm Field Lunch
3:00-4:00 pm Afternoon Session: ***Exploring the Existence of a Disconnect Between Children and Nature***; Examining Data and Personal Stories
(Engaging the HEAD and the HEART)
3:30 pm Depart for Wildlife Watching
(Focusing the HEAD and HEART)
5:30 pm Picnic Dinner in the Field
Evening Elk Bugling in Grand Teton National Park –
(Focusing the HEAD and HEART)

Saturday, October 16, 2010

8:00 am Breakfast
9:00 – 2:00 pm Connecting to Nature: *Serving the Community and the Natural World & Nature and Learning Rotations*
(Linking HEART, HEAD, HEALTH, HANDS)

Serving the Community

Options to include:

- Improving Wildlife Habitat with Fence and Post Removal
- Viewscape beautification on Teton Pass
- Cody Creek Bank Restoration
- Karns Meadow Restoration

Nature and Learning (Engaging the HEAD)

Options to 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

12:00 pm Field Lunch
3:00 – 5:00 pm Play & Reflection Opportunities (Refreshing the HEAD and HEART)
6:00 pm Dinner
7:00 pm ***Kids and Nature Film Festival*** with Facilitated Discussion
8:00 pm Preparing to take the message back home

Sunday, October 17, 2010

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
(HEAD, HEART, HOME)
11:00 – 11:30 am Closures
(Uniting HEAD, HEART, HANDS, HEALTH & HOME)
11:30 am Departures
(Returning HOME)