

Project CONVERGE

Bring Antarctic science &
scientists into your classroom!



Principal Investigator: Kristin Hunter-Thomson
Project Title: Project CONVERGE

Attachment 4: Project CONVERGE Parent Consent Form

Your child has the opportunity to be part of Project CONVERGE, a year-long partnership between your child's classroom and a science team conducting research in Antarctica. As part of the project your child is invited to be in the accompanying research study of Project CONVERGE, which aims to understand how the teachers and students benefit from the partnership. S/he was selected because s/he is in the 6-9th grade classroom of a participating teacher in Project CONVERGE. Please read this form. Ask any questions you may have before agreeing for your child to take part in this study.

Josh Kohut, Assistant Professor, and Kristin Hunter-Thomson, Program Coordinator, of the Cooperative Extension and the Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences at Rutgers University, are conducting this study. The study is funded by the National Science Foundation.

Background Information

The purpose of the research study accompanying Project CONVERGE is to determine the project's success in bringing together scientists, teachers, and students to improve ocean sciences education, the impact of the project on the teachers and students, and the students change in engagement in science from the project.

Procedures

If you agree for your child to be in this study, your child will:

1. Complete a pre-survey in his/her classroom at the start of the project regarding engagement in and identification with science that we estimate will take 20 minutes to complete (Fall 2014);
2. Complete a post-survey in his/her classroom at the completion of the project regarding engagement in and identification with science that we estimate will take 20 minutes to complete (Spring 2015).

Risks and Benefits

The risk in this study is no greater than the risks experienced in daily life or activities. There is no foreseeable risk to participation in this study.

The benefit in this study may be an increase in the understanding of how students learn about the process of science to better provide authentic science experiences for students. Your child may receive no direct benefit from taking part in this study.

Payment/Rewards

Your child will not receive any payment or rewards for taking part in this study.

Anonymity

This research is anonymous. Anonymous means that we will record no information about your child that could identify your child. If you agree for your child to take part in the study, your child will be assigned a random letter/number code that will be used on each survey. Your child's name will not be linked to the letter/number code that is assigned to him/her. There will be no way to link your child's responses back to him/her. Therefore, data collection is anonymous.



The survey responses for this study will be kept private. Information used in any written or presented report will not make it possible to identify your child. Only research team and the Institutional Review Board at Rutgers University will have access to the survey responses. Research records will be kept in a locked file. Records will be kept for a minimum of three years. Then they will be destroyed by shredding.

Taking Part is Voluntary

Your child’s participation is voluntary. Your decision for your child to participate or not participate will not affect your current or future relations with the investigators or your child’s teacher. It will not affect your relations with Rutgers University. You may withdraw your child at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are entitled. To withdraw, you must tell your child’s teacher who will inform the investigators. Shredding will then destroy your child’s information.

Contacts and Questions

The investigators conducting this study are Dr. Josh Kohut and Kristin Hunter-Thomson. You may ask questions now or later. If you have questions later, you may contact the researcher at hunterthomon@marine.rutgers.edu or 848-932-3281. If you have any questions about your rights as a research subject, you may contact the IRB Administrator at Rutgers University at: Rutgers University, the State University of New Jersey
Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects
Office of Research and Sponsored Programs
3 Rutgers Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8559
Tel: 848-932-0150; Email: humansubjects@orsp.rutgers.edu

You will be given a copy of this consent form for your records.

I have read the above information. I have asked questions and have received answers (if applicable). I **consent** for my child to participate in this study by signing nothing and NOT returning this form to my child’s teacher.

I have read the above information. I have asked questions and have received answers (if applicable). I **do NOT consent** for my child to participate in this study by signing below and returning this form to my child’s teacher:

Subject (Print) _____

Subject Signature _____ Date _____

Principal Investigator Signature _____ Date _____