

Proposal for: Eighth Grade Science Class Field Trip

To: Penn Hills School District Board Members

From: Mrs. Regina Marsilio, Linton Middle School Science Teacher

Trip Title: Pittsburgh Voyager Environmental Science Program

Trip Date: May 24, 2005

Background Information

Pittsburgh Voyager is a non-profit educational organization that operates experiential learning centers on board three river vessels and other places. These vessels are docked on the Monongahela River at the Pittsburgh Science Center. The vessel selected for our proposed trip is named the "Voyager" and can accommodate 70 to 90 students. Our trip will include 30 students from my 8th grade science class who are now studying the ecology of our region's river systems. The vessel "Voyager" and its crew are certified and safety approved by the United States Coast Guard. All crewmembers are trained and experienced in river safety and operating procedures. Crewmembers are also Red Cross qualified to perform emergency first aid procedures. The "Voyager" is equipped with modern radar, sonar, and radio communication systems. The proposed trip will encompass a three-hour river voyage encompassing all three of Pittsburgh's major rivers. River hydrological aspects, marine biology, and plant life will be pointed out and explained to the students by qualified university level instructors.

Curricular and Student Impact:

Enrichment of our student's knowledge of the local river environment and systems. To date, river study for our students has mostly been done

in the classroom only. The educational rationale behind the "Voyager" field trip is to implement classroom knowledge that students have acquired and to enhance it with a "Hands on Experience". During the voyage, Chaperons (parents) will film the activities. These films will be presented to 7th Grade Science Classes as an incentive for their participation in the Voyager program next year.

As a former participant in the Voyager's Teacher Workshops, I can truly say that the Voyager's program provided me with a valuable first hand experience.

State Standards Addressed:

Environment and Ecology: Earth Science 3.5.10D

Biological Sciences 3.3.7A

Wetlands and Watersheds 4.1.7C

Ecosystems and their Interactions 4.6.12A

Science and Technology 3.2.7B, 3.7.7B

Overview

Provided for your review is the "Classroom Teacher's Manual". The manual contains complete details of the "Voyager" program.

To participate in this field trip the following arrangements must be made:

Clearance Items:

All students and chaperones must obtain the following:

- (a) Medical Waivers- Available in the Superintendents Office
- (b) Permission Slips from a parent or guardian.
- (c) Name Tags- Provided by the Teacher

Projected Costs

Voyager Activity Fee: \$300.00 paid by the Parent Teachers Association.

Transportation: One School Bus. \$180.00, \$90.00 of which is being provided by the PTA.

Cost for each participant: \$3.00

Lunch: Each participant must bring their own lunch and drink.

Meeting and Returning: All participants will report as usual to their Linton Middle School homerooms at the regular time. The field trip bus will arrive at 8:30 a.m.; students will board under the direction of their homeroom teachers. The bus will return to Linton in time for students to return home on their regularly scheduled buses.

Rules and Cancellations:

These items have been discussed with the students and provided to their parents.

Confirmation of any of the enclosed information is available upon request.

I would like to thank the Board for their consideration and approval of this project.

More information about the "Pittsburgh Voyager" can be obtained from there website at: www.pittsburghvoyager.org

Academic State Standards Addressed:

Environment and Ecology

Earth Science (3.5.10d)

Biological Sciences (3.37a)

Wetlands and Watersheds (4.1.7, 4.1.10c)

Ecosystems and their Interactions (4.6.12a)

Science and Technology (3.2.7b, 3.7.7b)

References

- 1) Pittsburgh Voyager
- 2) United States Environmental Protection Agency
- 3) Issac Walton League of America Save our Streams
- 4) Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
- 5) ALCOSAN