

AIMEE METZ: Field Trip Request/Proposal

School: Perrysville Elementary School – North Hills School District

Date of Application: March 19, 2005

Name: Aimee Metz **Grade:** Fifth Grade **Number of Students:** 33

Date of Field Trip: TBA **Depart School:** 9:15 **Depart Site:** 2:30

Destination: Pittsburgh Voyager @ Carnegie Science Center

Curricular Objectives: Science

The students will be able to:

- Collect, examine and identify aquatic organisms collected from both the bottom and surface of Pittsburgh's three rivers.
- Collect and analyze water samples from each of the three rivers.
- Collect information about the birds and waterfowl and habitat of the rivers through a series of observation exercises.

(Objectives provided by Pittsburgh Voyager)

Pre-Trip Classroom Activities:

According to NHSD science curriculum, we will have discussed solids and liquids and insects. The teacher will use the Captain's Chest, provided by Pittsburgh Voyager, to discuss insects and animals that use Pittsburgh's three rivers as their habitat. The students will then predict in their journals what types of animals they expect to see as they travel the rivers and if they believe our rivers are healthy.

Post-Trip Classroom Activities:

The students will reflect in their journals. They will revisit the predictions they made before the field trip and reflect on what they learned about the animals that use the rivers as their homes and what we learned about the health of our rivers.

Name(s) of Chaperones

Teacher(s): Aimee Metz (fifth grade teacher), Janet Jones (fifth grade teacher), Michelle Smith (paraprofessional)

Parents: Not needed

Nurse: Not needed

Costs

<u>Needs</u>	<u>Estimated Amount</u>	<u>Method of Payment</u>
Bus	\$105.91	PTA
Substitutes	N/A	
Admission Fee	\$975.00	PTA/Student
Lunch	bagged lunch	
Other		

Bus will remain at site: YES

To: North Hills School Board
From: Aimee Metz
Fifth Grade Teacher
Perrysville Elementary School
Re: Pittsburgh Voyager Field Trip

The North Hills School District prides itself in the fact that it delivers the highest quality education to all students of the district. The science curriculum, Foss, which North Hills implements at grade levels K-6, gives students the opportunity to learn via discovery with a hands-on approach. I would like the opportunity to provide my students with an opportunity that would enrich and support what we teach in the classroom. A field trip to the Pittsburgh Voyager would provide them with the enrichment I have in mind.

The Pittsburgh Voyager is a non-profit science and environmental education organization. They organization has two water vessels which are docked at the Carnegie Science Center. The vessels were a gift to the Pittsburgh Voyager Program from the United States Navy. It is on these boats that they provide a hands-on, discovery based "classroom."

The crew of the Pittsburgh Voyager operates under the strict guidelines of the United States Coast Guard. They are all highly qualified instructors that facilitate activities on board that are linked to the state standards. The boats are all inspected for safety issues annually and are equipped in the event of an emergency. All of the crewmembers are certified by the Red Cross in CPR and First Aid. I know my students would be in an extremely safe learning environment.

Through the Foss program, I teach a unit on solids and liquids and an additional unit on insects. This field trip, Environmental Science on the Three Rivers, would enhance and enrich aspects of both units. The students will travel the three rivers and participate in experiments to determine the water quality of our rivers, study and observe micro and macro invertebrates, birds, and fish species. It is important for students to learn about the environment through our curriculum. In addition, it is imperative for them to have an understanding of the environment for which they live in each day and how what our community does on a daily basis effects us all directly.

The Pittsburgh Voyager will provide my students with a 4.5-hour fun, safe, and educational voyage. In addition, they will provide me with a Captain's Chest of pre-trip activities to prepare the students for their voyage. I have already been trained at their two-day teacher workshop. I feel very confident that I can support and enrich what the highly qualified crew teaches. All good things come with a price tag. The cost of our trip will be \$975.00. The PTA will pay for the transportation. The PTA also provides my class with a \$200.00 stipend each year that I plan on using to deduct from the cost. Therefore, the cost of the trip is \$775.00. Each student will be responsible to pay \$23.00. If this proves to be a successful field trip, and I know it will, I will plan next year to have a class fundraiser to help defray the cost even more. We may also consider a School District Membership in the future. As a member, we would receive special benefits and discounts.

The Pittsburgh Voyager has a motto written by and anonymous author. "Tell me, I'll forget. Show me, I might remember. Involve me, I'll understand." I am asking your permission to involve my students in a day of educational activities they will understand and remember for a lifetime. Attached you will find persuasive letters written by the students stating why they believe this would be and educational and fun activity for them to participate in.