

Workshops

More Rocks in Your Head (register here)

Saturday, 11 October 2008

Pittsburgh Public Schools' Greenway Professional Development Center

Who should attend: The nationally acclaimed workshop, "More! Rocks in Your Head," covers a full scope of earth sciences for elementary and middle school teachers. A comprehensive manual and course materials will enable full or partial incorporation into an individual teacher's curriculum.

About the Course: Teachers will learn to teach with confidence guided in each section by: 1) background information; 2) vocabulary; 3) project information; 4) projects; 5) advanced thinking topics; and 6) cross-curricular ideas with language arts, social and other sciences, and math. All projects are hands-on, making earth science a fun and memorable learning experience. Interactive overview and review games such as Geo-Bingo and Jeopardy lead to understanding and retention for all. For more information on MRIYH visit www.rocksinyourhead.org.

Course Content: Students will begin their hands-on investigations with Disappearing Nickels and Earth Models, an edible study on the earth's structure, then learn about different rock types with Mount Eruptus, Sedimentary Rock Socks, Mighty Morph and Power Pressures. They will learn how plants and animals change through geologic time by comparing Scenes of the Past created by them for the Paleozoic, Mesozoic and Cenozoic eras. Environmental processes like soil erosion, mining & reclamation, and cave formation are the subjects of other activities, along with mineral identification, geologic landforms, earth science careers, fossil fuel formation with a non-renewable activity (Bottle of Gold: a Non-renewable Resource) and an exciting oil exploration game, where groups of students form oil companies (beginner, intermediate and advanced levels included). Other hands-on projects include The Body on the Beach (forensic geology), Class Cave, Get a Half-Life, Mineral Concentration, and Landform BINGO.

Duration/Credit Hours: 8 hours or 0.8 CEU (Continuing Education Unit)

Teachers Who Attend also will Receive: Each teacher will receive the More! Rocks in Your Head manual, written with background information, vocabulary, hands-on project, advanced thinking topics, and cross-curricular ideas. They also will receive labeled rock samples, labeled minerals with Test Kit, Hunt for Fossil Fuels oil exploration game, a certificate of completion for 8 hours or .8 CEU, and lunch.

Instructor Biography: Janie Schuelke, Geoscience Education Consultant, has been presenting this workshop and its predecessor (Rocks in Your Head) at AAPG Section meetings for the past 9 years. In more than 40 workshops, she has prepared more than 2600 teachers to teach the earth sciences with hands-on activities, reaching more than 126,000 students per year. With an education in geology and work experience in both geophysics and teaching, Janie specializes in explaining complex information in an easily understood style for many levels, including those who think they are science challenged. In the training of teachers for the earth sciences, both information and motivation are necessary, especially at the elementary school level.

Cost: Free to the first 45 teachers who register! The normal fee of \$130/teacher will be waived. The workshop will be subsidized by AAPG, PAPG and the Pittsburgh Petroleum Section of SPE, so please, don't be a no-show!