5th grader MENTEE Application for the Science Ambassadors Program
2020-2021 School Year

Deadline for application: 11:59 p.m., October 27, 2020

Return all application materials to:
Diana Gordon, Oregon National Primate Research Center
505 NW 185th Avenue, Beaverton, OR 97006
gordondi@ohsu.edu OR FAX: (503) 346-5015

Remember to ask your teacher to complete the 5th Grader Teacher Recommendation Form and include it with your application!

We are happy that your son/daughter is interested in the Science Ambassadors Program at ONPRC! The program is entering its 15th year of providing excellent after-school hands-on activities for both high school students and their 5th grader “mentees.” High School students will meet weekly throughout the year via Webex (OHSU’s on-line meeting platform) to develop and test lessons and hands-on lab experiences for their mentees. Mentees will meet from 4-5:30 p.m. on selected Wednesdays (with the exception of the first and last meetings), also via Webex, until further notice. (See meeting schedule at the end of this application.)

Name: _______________________________ Preferred Nickname: ________________

Sex: Male Female Prefer Not to Say

Pronouns: __________________________

Address: _____________________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip: _____________________________________________________________________

Telephone: __________________________

Parent e-mail address that will be checked regularly: ________________________________

School: _____________________________________________________________________

Teacher: _____________________________________________________________________
I have access to Internet to connect to Science Ambassador Meetings:

_____ Yes    _____ No

How did you learn about Science Ambassadors?

☐ former/current Science Ambassador  ☐ teacher
☐ friend  ☐ website
☐ parent  ☐ Other _________________________

To help us match you with an appropriate high school mentor, please thoughtfully answer the questions on the following pages.

1. Describe a memorable science experience you have had in the past (ie., at OMSI or the Zoo, on a family vacation, at camp, at school, etc.) What did you especially like about it?

2. What are your hobbies?

3. What is the most interesting or exciting thing you have learned in your science classes at school (in this or previous years)?

4. Which of the following would describe you? (Circle all that apply, and add two descriptive words of your own choosing.)

   Quiet    Shy    Patient
   Talkative    Outgoing    Hard Worker
   Artistic    Athletic    Energetic

____________________    ____________________
5. Describe your ideal mentor by filling in the blanks below (Your mentor is the high school student with whom you will be matched for the year)

My ideal mentor would be more...

___________________  ____________________  __________________

My ideal mentor would be less...

___________________  ____________________  __________________

6. Why do you want to participate in the Science Ambassadors program?

7. What special traits, qualities, or abilities do you possess that you think would make you a good Science Ambassador?

8. Describe your approach to trying something new, especially when it is difficult for you.

9. If something is not particularly interesting to you, how do you respond?

10. What other after-school activities will you participate in this year, and how will you prioritize these so that you are able to attend Science Ambassadors meetings?
Please discuss the following questions with your parents and have them help you complete these sections:

11. My child has access to the technology necessary (computer and internet connection) to participate in the Science Ambassadors program in a virtual space during the 2020-2021 school year.

   _____ YES   _____ NO

12. The first “mentee” meeting (with parents) will be held VIRTUALLY on Saturday, November 21:

   10:30 a.m.  Arrival
   10:30 – 10:40  Welcome (Diana & Student Directors)
   10:40 – 11:00  Introductory Activities (social and science!)
   11:00 – 11:15  Collect your own DNA!
   11:15 – 11:30  Virtual Tour of the Primate Center & Questions

   This is a mandatory meeting. If you cannot attend this meeting, please do not apply!

   Please have your parent/guardian sign below to indicate that they will be able to arrange their schedules so that you can attend this meeting:

   __________________________________________  __________________________________________
   Printed Parent/Guardian Name  Parent/Guardian Signature

   INTEREST IN PERSONAL MEETING WITH MENTOR???

   We know from years of participant input that the relationships built between Science Ambassadors mentors and mentees are very important to the experience of our 5th graders and to the overall success of our program. We would like to offer those who are comfortable with it the opportunity to meet in person in small, socially-distanced groups, in an accessible outdoor space. Each meeting would include the following people:
   -- 2 mentees and their parents/guardians (up to 3 people, total, per mentee)
   -- 2 matched mentors
   -- Diana Gordon

   Each group would have a maximum of 9 persons meeting in the outdoor space, with social distancing rules in effect and all parties wearing masks.

   I/we are interested in meeting with our child’s mentor in person at an agreed-upon time/place:

   _____ YES   _____ NO

   The final meeting of the 2020-2021 school year is scheduled for Wednesday, May 19.

   This is a mandatory meeting. At this time we do not know whether this will be an in-person meeting, or via Webex; this will depend on the situation with coronavirus. Please initial below to indicate that your child will attend this meeting.

   __________________________________________
   Parent/Guardian Initials

MORE BELOW, PLEASE SCROLL DOWN!
During the month of March 2021 we will be studying the brain. One of the activities we normally conduct in this unit is a sheep’s brain dissection. This particular activity will not be possible if we are not meeting in person; however, we can provide sheep brain sections for observation. These tissues were initially fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde in a phosphate buffer solution (PBS), and then transferred into a PBS containing sodium azide to prevent mold. This method of preservation presents a very minor risk (should not be ingested). We will provide gloves and goggles for each student, and we will require that a parent/other adult be present to supervise the activity. These materials have been donated for educational use and would need to be returned to us. Please have your parent/guardian sign below to indicate that you have their permission to participate in this activity.

My son/daughter has my permission to participate in the sheep brain observation activity; I (or another adult) will be present to supervise this exploration.

__________________________  _______________________
Printed Name  Signature

All participants will receive a tee-shirt. Please mark your tee-shirt size:

Child’s Sizes:  S  M  L  XL

- OR -

Adult Sizes:  S  M  L  XL

If you have any questions, or need further information about the Science Ambassadors Program, please contact Diana Gordon at (503) 346-5055 or gordondi@ohsu.edu.

The Beaverton School District does not sponsor or endorse the Science Ambassadors Program at the Oregon National Primate Research Center.
Science Ambassador 5th graders ("mentees") generally meet on the 3rd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, unless otherwise indicated on the schedule (below). Meetings during the 2020-2021 school year will be held in a virtual space from 4-5:30 p.m. until further notice.

October 27  Mentee Applications AND Teacher Recommendation forms due by 11:59 p.m.
October 30  Applicants notified of their acceptance status (by email)
November 21 Mentee Meeting: Introduction Activities and Virtual Tour of the Center (10:30 – 11:30 a.m.*) MANDATORY for parents and mentees!
December 16 Mentee Meeting: Caring for our Animals: Enrichment for Monkeys
December 23 NO MEETING: Winter Break
January 20  Mentee Meeting: Cells
January 27  Mentee Meeting: DNA & Mendelian Genetics
February 17 Mentee Meeting: Infectious Disease, Part 1
February 24 Mentee Meeting: Infectious Disease, Part 2
March 17   Mentee Meeting: The Brain, Part 1
March 24   NO MEETING: Spring Break
March 31   Mentee Meeting: The Brain, Part 2
April 21   Mentee Meeting: Endangered Species, Part 1
April 28   Mentee Meeting: Endangered Species, Part 2
May 20     Mentee Meeting: Final Ceremony and Year-End Celebration (6:30-8:30 p.m., families/teachers/etc. invited to presentation and ice cream social that follows – COVID PERMITTING!) MANDATORY for parents and mentees!