TEACHER LESSON PLANS

As a teacher participant in the Research in Ecology Program, you are expected to create a Unit Plan/Lesson Plan to be shared with your colleagues throughout the Miami-Dade School System. This plan is to be prepared as per the guidelines of the Grade Level Expectations for the Sunshine State, seventh - eighth grade level. You will be provided a copy of these Guidelines if you do not already have one.

The Unit Plan you create can be any duration you wish, from a two-week unit to a two-day project, but it should be possible to actually perform in the context of Miami-Dade County Public School classroom. The most important aspect of this project is that it must include a classroom exercise in which students engage in critical thinking, experimental design, and hypothesis testing. The project you design should be based on some of the team research or classroom activity topics you experienced in Research in Ecology, and hence to explore some aspect of ecology.

In addition to the Sunshine State Guidelines, you will receive one or more bound booklets containing the unit plans/lesson plans prepared by teachers who participated in Research in Ecology in previous years. Please use their work as a template for how to prepare your own unit plan, and be assured that your work will be credited to you whenever it is distributed to future teacher participants or any other agency. This means that we are hoping for innovative, creative, and original projects designed by you, and utilizing materials that you have researched via our university's facilities (library, computer lab, etc.). Please do not simply reproduce a lesson plan you have already used, and certainly not one that has been published elsewhere.

Resources

You are welcome to use the University of Miami Richter library to research your topic. We have provided the library with a permission letter including all of your names, so that you should be able to use the library throughout the program. You are also welcome to use our computers in the classroom laboratory (Macintosh) or the Computer Lab (SA 108; mostly Windows), and we will provide you with floppy disks on which to store your work and eventually turn in to us.

Format

Your unit plan/lesson plan is due on XXXXXX. This will give us enough time to bind and print everyone's work into a printed volume for each teacher participant to take home and use in his/her classroom.

Please provide Dr. Krempeles with one (1) hard copy, printed on white paper and one (1) copy on computer disk (the one we will provide for you). Please use either text or Microsoft Word as your processing program, and DO NOT INCLUDE ANY IMAGES IN THE TEXT OF YOUR PLAN. Please include all images as .jpgs, and create a separate, clearly named file for them.

When do I work on the lesson plan?

It is truly amazing how quickly time passes in this program, and we urge you not to wait until the last minute to begin work on your project. Unless you are specifically asked to participate in the writing and math/statistics portions of the program, you may use the times that the students are engaged in these activities to work on your lesson plans. You may also use the time that students are at the swimming pool, if you do not wish to go to the pool yourself. Any of these times should be spent working on your project and developing a budget and supply list.

Funding

Because part of this lesson plan will include a research activity that may require resources, we also ask that you provide us with a BUDGET listing specific items that you will need. Each teacher will allowed a total of $500 for supplies that will be provided directly to that teacher's school.

You will be provided with scientific supply catalogs, and we invite you to peruse the catalogs for materials that will be appropriate and useful for the research project. Please do not request video tapes or other such "passive use" materials unless they are absolutely essential to your project. We prefer that all materials you order be equipment the students will use in their experiments.

When preparing your budget, please use the attached form (Purchase Order Requisition). The sooner the budget is completed, the sooner we can order materials and have them ready for you to take with you at the end of the program. Please have your supplies order completed no later than XXXXXX.