

Dear Parents,

My name is Jessica Tegt and I am a graduate student from the Wildlife and Fisheries Department at Mississippi State University. As part of my graduate program, I am conducting a study to evaluate an environmental education program in your child's classroom.

The program is titled "Living with White-tailed Deer" and addresses some issues faced when deer enter areas inhabited by people. The program will take about 3-5 science class sessions and meets national standards for education in biology and environmental science.

To obtain the information I need for my study, your child's teacher will be administering a pre-program knowledge and attitude survey, a post-program knowledge and attitude survey, and a demographic information survey. In addition, your child's teacher will be administering a post-program knowledge and attitude survey near the end of the school year.

Participation in this study is voluntary and your child will never be identified with any of his/her survey answers. Furthermore, all information your child contributes will remain confidential. I do not anticipate risk of any kind to your child throughout the study. If your child wishes, he/she may stop participation at any time during the study.

I need your written permission for your child to participate in this study. If you have any questions regarding the study, please feel free to call me at 662-617-2735. If you have any questions regarding the use of human subjects please contact the Institutional Regulatory Compliance Office at Mississippi State University at 662-325-5520. If you agree to include your child in this study, please sign the statement below. Thank you for your help in this important research.

Sincerely,

Jessica Tegt

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I have read the above letter and I understand the request to include my child in this study. I understand that my child's participation is voluntary and he/she will not be named or identified in the study. I also understand that my child has the right to stop participation in the study at any time. I have been informed that this program will take 3-5 science classes and that all of my child's answers to research related material will be kept confidential. I understand that this study poses no anticipated risks to my child and that if I have questions concerning his/her participation in the study, I may call the Institutional Regulatory Compliance office at Mississippi State University (662)325-5520.

Signed,

(Name)

(Date)

check one:

____parent

____legal guardian