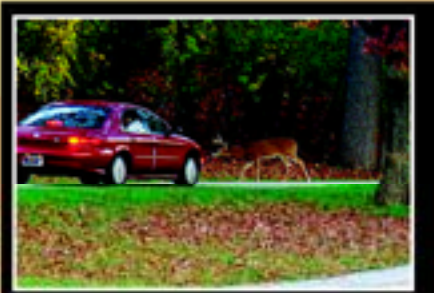


LIVING WITH WHITE-TAILED DEER

To Teacher Participants:



Hello, and thank you for signing up to participate in the Living with White-tailed Deer Project through Mississippi State University. This important project will not only help educate students, and perhaps teachers about the issues surrounding urban deer, it will help biologists and environmental scientists determine the effectiveness of the program and how to improve upon similar projects. As you begin to plan your lessons for this fall, please try to incorporate the Living with White-tailed Deer Program sometime between the commencement of the 2009-2010 school year and December 31, 2009. If this will not be possible, please let me know, so that we can arrange the most appropriate time. Again, the program takes between 3-5 science sessions depending on how much research time you wish to allot the students. Outlined below are my requests for you regarding your involvement in the program.



1. Teacher consent, parent consent and student assent forms must be signed and returned to me. Students without signed parental consent can participate in the program but may not complete the surveys.
2. All surveys and demographic information sheets will be emailed to you directly following review of the program (I will mail to you) and commitment to participate.
3. Student surveys will need to be administered twice during your program participation. Please print off the knowledge and attitude surveys and administer them before the DVD is viewed. Collect these assessments and place them in a folder labeled "pre-test". Please print off a second round of the same attitude and knowledge surveys and administer them immediately following the Town Meeting. Place these assessments in a separate folder labeled "post-test". Please make sure that each student writes a unique code on the ID line of each assessment, pre and post-program. This code should not include any sensitive information nor should it be their initials or name. An example of a code could be the last 4 digits of their telephone number, their mother's maiden name, or a teacher-assigned random number.
4. The demographic data sheet will only be administered once at the beginning of the program. These sheets should be placed in a separate folder.
5. The Teacher Feedback Form will be completed by you after the program and returned to me with the pre and post survey assessments, and the demographic information sheets. A pre-stamped envelope will be sent to you for return of materials.
6. For your time and participate, the DVD set is yours to keep. Thank you for your interest in education youth about deer management issues.

I will be available to you for questions and concerns during your participation in the Living with White-tailed Program. You can contact me at jtegt@cfr.msstate.edu, or at (662)617-2735. If you have concerns regarding the research that I am unable to resolve, you may contact my graduate advisor, Dr. Ben West at benw@cfr.msstate.edu or (662)325-3177. If you have questions about the participation of human subjects in research, you can contact the Institutional Regulatory Compliance Office at Mississippi State University at (662)325-5520.

By law, you or your students may withdraw participation at any time during the research. Parents may also refuse student participation in the research.

***I look forward to hearing your feedback concerning the Living with White-tailed Deer Program.
Enjoy!
Jessica Tegt***