



SWE Activity Report 2007 - 2008

Event: Elementary School Outreach

Time - From: 8:30 To: 1:55

Date: 12/3/07

Number of Participants: _____

Please attach all participant lists, relevant pamphlets/flyers, and pertinent info.

Chairs of Event		
Name	Email	Year / Major
Natalie Katchmar	Nnk9@cornell.edu	2011/ChemE
Kat Ingalls	Kji6@cornell.edu	2011/ChemE

Please submit a brief schedule of the planning of your event and any relevant contact people:

Activity to be done	By (Date)	Contact Person	Phone Number (or Email)
Contact elementary schools	10/18	For South Hills: Mrs. Rae Covey (principal) (I emailed her first, and she forwarded my email to her listserv...these were the teachers who responded)	rcovey@icsd.k12.ny.us
		Carol Dentes Wilhem (3 rd gr.)	(607) 227-0601 cdentesw@gmail.com
		Jen Wilkie (4 th gr.)	jwilkie@icsd.k12.ny.us
		Jane Koestle (5 th gr.)	jkoestle@icsd.k12.ny.us
		For Cayuga Heights: Steve Ryan (3 rd gr.)	Sryan@icsd.k12.ny.us
		Pam Merola (4 th gr.)	pmerola@hotmail.com
		Connie Patterson (5 th gr.)	cpatters@icsd.k12.ny.us
Send out volunteer ads/begin recruiting volunteers	10/18	Sundial, G-body meetings	
Order science kits from Cornell's nanobiotechnology center (Main Street Science kits)	11/13	330 Duffield Hall	www.nbtc.cornell.edu/education/kitlib/
Volunteer training session	11/28	Contact Olin Hall for	?

		reserving room	
Pick up breakfast foods/lunch	12/3	?	?

1. **About the event** – Please describe the event briefly. Was the turn out what you expected and/or wanted?

This year, we only visited two elementary schools, South Hills and Cayuga Heights. While Belle Vernon Elementary was contacted several times, I never received a response from anyone. We conducted two experiments. The third graders constructed aluminum boats, and a competition was held to see how many pennies the boats could hold. The students worked in teams of two. The fourth and fifth graders constructed ‘puff mobiles,’ which were cars made from straws, paper clips, and peppermint candies that ran by air. Although we did not attend a third school, this benefited us because we had too few volunteers. Many people signed up initially but never came to the event. There was a mix up at Cayuga Heights with the times of the third and fifth grade visits. Because of this, we did not get to visit the fifth graders.

*****PLEASE TURN OVER AND FILL OUT THE BACK *****

2. **Specific Problems** – Please list any problems that were encountered in the organization and execution of the event.

The major problem about this event was the confusion over the times for the visits at Cayuga Heights. The times for the fifth and third grade visits were switched, so we were unable to visit the fifth grades. Another big problem was the lack of volunteers for the number of kids that were expecting us. Also, the transportation to and from the schools was very unorganized: we did not plan this out well enough and were fortunate to have a few friends drive and pick us up from the different schools.

3. **Suggestions** – Please elaborate on ways in which SWE can improve this event for next year. Include general suggestions and advice for the future.

Organization is key for this event. You cannot wait until the last minute, especially in organizing transportation and volunteers. We realized after Thanksgiving break at our training meeting that we were lacking volunteers and drivers for the events. It was difficult to contact each of the volunteers (they did not respond well to emails and we had no other way of contacting them). Also, the way we organized it between the two chairs was for one to contact the schools and organize the day while the other recruited volunteers. While this decrease the workload for each of us, it hindered the event because neither of us knew enough about the other’s topic. I did not know the specifics about the volunteers and who was responding, and my co-chair did not know enough about the schools. More communication and planning are necessary to make this event better. Also, double checking the times and places for each of the classes and schools is an excellent idea!

4. **Budget-** Please make a budget of things purchased for this activity and their prices.

Item	Purchased From	Cost
Aluminum boat kits and Puff Mobile kits	Cornell’s Nanobiotechnology Center	Free!
Taxis	??	??
Bagels/pizza	??	??
Total =		??