

NC AIR AWARENESS 2016 SUMMER INTERNSHIP!

HELPING STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT AIR POLLUTION AT SUMMER CAMP

Below are a few examples of work past interns completed as part of their NC Air Awareness internship. Interested in learning about air quality and air pollution? Want to help K-12 students learn about things they can do to improve our natural environment? Want to get experience as a communications and outreach team member to build your resume? Apply for the 2017 summer internship today! Contact jonathan.navarro@ncdenr.gov with any questions.

Sarah P. Duke Gardens Summer Camp

Jonathan and Kylie traveled to the Sarah P. Duke Gardens Art and Science Summer Camp where they worked with a group of eight 3rd through 5th graders, teaching them an air quality lesson about lichens and led an outdoors activity to find lichens in the garden. Lead Instructor Hope Wilder and a total of three high-school and college-aged counselors also helped guide the campers through the activity. Jonathan showed the campers pictures of the three main types of lichens, described the structure and symbiotic relationship of a lichen, and explained why lichens are good bio-indicators of air quality. Kylie showed campers how to mark a lichen they find on their map, fill out their data collection sheets, and explained why it is important for scientists to keep detailed notes, just like artists.



Juntos Summer Academy

Teresa, Jonathan, Kylie, and Braden gave presentations to the Juntos Summer Academy at North Carolina State University on the afternoon of June 21. They spoke to a total of 100 Latino high school students in three groups, initially giving a brief air quality lesson to each group, followed by a Kahoot quiz and a presentation on internships and environmental careers. Approximately 6 college-aged counselors attended each presentation with the campers as well. Juntos Codeveloper Andrew Behnke and North Carolina State Program Director Juana Hernandez greeted DAQ staff as they set up and were in-and-out of the presentations throughout the afternoon. Jonathan described the health and environmental effects of air pollution and explained how to access and use the Air Quality Forecast. Teresa explained how the students can become advocates by helping others in the Latino community understand environmental issues. She also reminded students that by being bilingual they possess a very valuable skill for the job market. Kylie and Braden talked to the students about their experiences interning and job shadowing.



C.H.E.R. Camp

Teresa and interns Kylie, Meghan, and Braden joined the C.H.E.R. camp at the Historic Yates Mill County Park to teach an air quality lesson and show campers that learning about air quality can be fun! Eight elementary school C.H.E.R. campers, director Randy Senzig, and four college aged camp counselors all participated in the lesson. Kylie and Meghan explained the two types of air pollutants that we monitor in North Carolina, what kind of health effects these pollutants can cause, and walked campers through the Air Quality Index. They also led two interactive lessons, first the asthma simulation with different sized straws and second the whirling-swirling air activity in smaller groups. Following the activities, they wrapped up the lesson by discussing how campers can become advocates to improve air quality and help others understand environmental issues.

Jonathan, Kylie, and Braden introduced a group of C.H.E.R. campers to the science of air quality at Temple Flat Rock in Wendell. C.H.E.R. director Randy Senzig, five college aged camp counselors, and about 15 middle school campers all participated in the activity. Jonathan explained how lichen are bio-indicators of air quality, their symbiotic relationship, and the different types of lichen that campers will be looking for. After campers explored the Temple Flat Rock and took scientific measurements of the lichen, Jonathan discussed how campers can also become advocates by helping others understand environmental issues and pursuing environmental careers.



Energy Summer Camp

Jonathan, Kylie and Braden visited the Wake County Energy Summer Camp to show campers how different types of light bulbs emit different amounts of heat, and why this is a representation of their efficiency. Two adult counselors and two coordinators observed the activity and helped the campers. Jonathan gave an introduction on the difference between each type of light bulb, and Kylie taught campers how to conduct the experiment, capture the data, and analyze their results. Each person took on a different scientific role and contributed to the final graph of their data. A spokesperson from each light bulb presented their findings and discussed the pros and cons of their light bulbs. The NC Air Awareness team was able to get students excited about energy efficiency which can have a positive impact on air quality in our state.

Latino Verano

June 22, 2016

Teresa, Kylie, and Meghan taught a lesson on air quality in North Carolina to a group of Latino Verano students at Meredith College. There were ten Latino and four English-speaking elementary school students, along with two adult teachers and coordinator Dr. Courtney George. Teresa gave a short lesson on how air pollutants can affect our health and showed the Pima County lung simulation over the projector. All of the students participated in the asthma straw simulation together, then class broke into two groups for the whirling-swirling air activity. After the activities were finished students gave examples of how they could help to reduce air pollution through daily activities and they were introduced to the AQI and Air Quality Forecasts.