

Science Ambassadors

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- What is it?
- What are the aims?
- Examples:

Let's talk science at Ile-a-la Crosse

Beardy&Okemasis First Nation school

Muskoday First Nation community school

The Pas school systems

A Science Ambassador program is

- one in which an academically talented science/technology student serves as a resident liaison for a school with a post-secondary institution
- The liaison may last as long as a few months in contrast to others which are one-time shows for a group of students

Science Ambassadors Are

- Academically talented youth
- They are post-graduate or senior undergraduate students in science and technology programs
- Been through Canadian school systems, preferably from that area
- People-oriented as evidenced by their extra-curricular activities.

What do they do?

- They are present in classrooms
- They observe classroom academic progression
- They may, in private, suggest to teachers relevant examples, other methods of approach to subjects
- They attempt to identify the resources (material as well as intellectual) to improve the curriculum, contents and presentations
- Confidence-builders to the youth

What are they not?

- not inspectors/supervisors/spies
- not substitute teachers
- not gophers
- not to take over the classroom teaching
- not to deviate from the curriculum topics

The Goal:

- Intellectual partner with teachers
- Identifies and suggests the ways to enliven the classroom discussions and examples
- Exploits the links with post-secondary institutions (PSI) to engage the schools and PSI in dialogues to enhance overall science education
- Still remembers, relates to and narrates the issues of transition from high school to PSI
- Serve as confidence-builder, mentor, role-model etc. to younger generation

Let's Talk science at Ile-a-la Crosse

- Let's Talk science Branch at U of S
- <http://www.letstalkscience.ca>
- <http://letstalkscience.usask.ca>
- Graduate student volunteers, periodic one-day visits, science activities with students who are interested.
- Activities: geology, botany, animal tracking and ecology (grades 8-12)

Schools near Saskatoon

- An ambassador visits the school on alternate Fridays for an entire academic year
- She helps procuring the supplies for class-room instructions
- Identifies things that may be improved
- Builds relations with school students
- Serves as a role-model
- On-going since September, 2007.
- Funded through NSERC and U of S

Ambassador Program in The Pas

- Collaboration between CRYSTALs, NSERC - Chair and Manitoba education board, Kelsey school division
- A 6 week program in Spring 2008
- Contacts began in the Fall 2007
- Visit to the Pas and first meeting Dec. 2007
- Teleconference Jan 30th.

The Ambassador

- A female student from Rural Sask
- U of S graduate >95% average in natural sciences (physics, math)
- Gymnastics' coach for toddlers
- Wall-climbing coach
- Light source machine operator
- Volunteer in schools in Ghana
- Plans to pursue to grad studies in Medical physics

The Pas engagement

- The Pas teachers and administrators show enormous enthusiasm, wonderful suggestions on ways to make the best of the ambassador's stay
- Mini-ambassadors program: The Pas teachers' idea
- Very welcoming, warm community
- We are very optimistic