



CityLab Biotechnology
Summer Program
for Middle School Students
at BSC CityLab



Dear Parents/Guardians:

March 2008

Is your son or daughter interested in science and nature? Would your child like to work with scientists to solve a *Whale of a Mystery* at a week-long program this summer? The Biology faculty at Bridgewater State College is offering a biotechnology summer program for middle school-aged students through our BSC CityLab. This program is open to any student entering Grades 6 - 9 in the fall of 2008. Students in the program will conduct scientific research to solve a mystery based on current scientific and legal proceedings.

Bridgewater State College's CityLab has offered *Whale of a Mystery* each summer since 2001. Faculty from Biology, Chemistry, and English developed this program through a National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant, which fully subsidized the program development and has funded the participation of more than 400 students. The extremely positive feedback and results we have received from *Whale of a Mystery* parents, students, and external evaluators indicate that we have a very valuable offering.

Two sessions of *Whale of a Mystery* will be offered this summer. Session I will be held July 7th-11th and Session II will be July 14th-18th. The program will run daily from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. The fee is \$250 per student. We anticipate that some scholarships will be available to cover program costs for families with financial need.

About *Whale of a Mystery*

Every year, endangered or protected species of whales are hunted and their meat illegally sold in foreign fish markets. Until now, the International Whaling Commission has not been able to prove that this is occurring. Students participating in the program will be called upon to solve a "mystery" by determining if a sample of "whale" meat comes from an endangered species. They will use the latest biotechnology techniques and the same scientific equipment used in research labs. Your child will have fun and be challenged while working with others to investigate and solve this mystery. In addition to the laboratory work, students will study local whales, including humpback and minke whales. On Wednesday (rain date Thursday), BSC will bus the participants to Plymouth

Harbor and take a whale watch voyage to view these gentle giants. A cetologist (whale expert) will be available to answer their questions and to teach them exciting facts about the different species of whales. The program will conclude with a mock congressional hearing on Friday. The participants will create presentations based on their lab work and defend their scientific studies as expert witnesses. Family and friends will be invited to attend and help us judge whether or not something illegal is happening to our protected whale species.

How to Apply

The enclosed application materials contain two parts. Part A is the general application to be filled in by *all* applicants. Part B is a required student questionnaire *and teacher evaluation* to be completed for those applicants seeking a scholarship. *The application for students seeking scholarships must be postmarked by Saturday, May 17th, 2008.*

Students applying for scholarships will be evaluated on financial need and enthusiasm for science, as judged from the responses to the questionnaire and teacher evaluations. Final decisions for the scholarship applicants are made in June. All other applicants will be confirmed on a continuing basis until the program fills. *Please be aware that transportation and lunch are the responsibility of the parent/guardian.*

Further information, including full application packets, can be found by visiting our website, <http://webhost.bridgew.edu/CityLab>, by e-mailing us at CityLab@bridgew.edu, or by calling 508-531-2635.

We look forward to meeting you this summer!

Sincerely,

Michael Carson, PhD
Assoc. Professor of Biology
mjcarson@bridgew.edu

Cielito King, PhD
Assoc. Professor of Chemistry
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Merideth Krevosky, PhD
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Department of Health and Human Services • National Institutes of Health

Supported by a Science Education
Partnership Award (SEPA) from the
National Center for Research Resources



2008 Biotechnology Summer Program for Middle School Students
Application, 2008, Part A (Required)

Student Name: _____ male female

Home address:

Street: _____

Town: _____

State/Zip: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

School Information:

School Name: _____

Street: _____

Town/State/Zip: _____

Grade student will enter fall 2008*: _____

***Note:** to be eligible, participants must be entering grades 6-9 in fall, 2008

Emergency Contact (Parent or guardian):

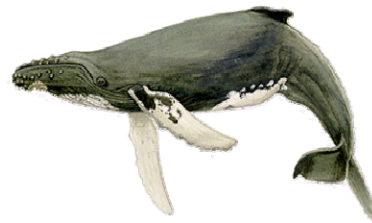
Name	Relationship	Address
Phone (Home)	Phone (Work)	Phone (cell /other)

Alternate Emergency Contact:

Name	Relationship	Address
Phone (Home)	Phone (Work)	Phone (cell /other)

Session Preference: Check the box(es) below:

- I prefer Session I: July 7-11, 2008
- I prefer Session II: July 14-18, 2008
- I can attend either Session I or Session II



How did you hear about the Whale of a Mystery Summer Program?

- from a student that participated in the program
- from seeing a poster advertising the program
- from my child's teacher
- from searching the web
- from a friend or relative
- other _____

Has your child visited BSC CityLab before? Yes No

Is your child applying for a scholarship? Yes* No

*If you checked yes, that your child is applying for a scholarship, Application forms A and B are required. They must be completed and postmarked by **Saturday, May 17, 2008**.

Please review and sign one of the following statements:

I understand that this application must be returned to CityLab prior to the program filling up. I have enclosed a **deposit of \$75.00** with a check made out to Bridgewater State College, to reserve a place for my child. This fee will be credited towards the full program cost upon his/her acceptance into the program. I understand that the balance of the program cost, **\$175.00**, must be paid in full by Friday, **June 13, 2008** to ensure my child's placement. I also grant permission for my son/daughter to be videotaped or photographed for evaluation purposes. I understand that program operation is contingent upon sufficient enrollment.

parent/guardian signature

date

My child is applying for a scholarship in the amount of \$225.00 to the 2008 *Whale of a Mystery* Biotechnology Program. My child receives or qualifies for free (or reduced price) lunches during the normal school year. I give permission for the employees at CityLab to confirm this information with my child's school district. I have enclosed a **\$25.00 deposit** payable to Bridgewater State College, which is the full amount I will pay if my child is awarded a scholarship. I understand that this fee will be returned to me if my child does not receive a scholarship. I understand that both Part A and Part B of this application must be postmarked to CityLab by May 17, 2008 in order for my child to be considered for a scholarship. I also grant permission for my son/daughter to be videotaped or photographed for evaluation purposes. I understand that program operation is contingent upon sufficient enrollment.

parent/guardian signature

date

Send completed application to:
BSC CityLab (Biotechnology Program)
Moakley Technology Center, Room 308
Bridgewater State College
Bridgewater, MA 02325



Department of Health and Human Services • National Institutes of Health

Supported by a Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) from the National Center for Research Resources



2008 Biotechnology Summer Program for Middle School Students
Application, 2008, Part B
(Required only for students requesting a scholarship)

Student Questionnaire

We will be selecting our scholarship winners based in part on your honest and complete responses to a few questions. Scholarships are competitive so be sure to answer each question thoroughly. The Teacher Evaluation form in this packet should be given to a teacher who knows you well as soon as possible. *Teachers should be asked to return the evaluation to BSC CityLab by **May 17, 2008**.* You are encouraged to provide your teacher with a stamped envelope addressed to:



BSC CityLab (Biotechnology Program)
Moakley Technology Center, Room 308
Bridgewater State College
Bridgewater, MA 02325

Please print legibly.

Student Information:

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

School Information:

School Name: _____

School Location (town): _____

Grade you are entering in Fall 2008: _____

In your own words and in your own handwriting, please answer the two questions on page 2. Sign below and send the completed Part A and Part B applications to the address above.

I acknowledge that I have answered these questions to the best of my ability without the help of a friend, parent, relative, or teacher.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

What interests you about science?

Why do you want to participate in the BSC CityLab Biotechnology Summer Program?



2008 Biotechnology Summer Program for
Middle School Students
Application, 2008, Part B
(Required only for students requesting scholarships)



Teacher Evaluation Form

Dear Colleague,

March, 2008

Your student is applying for a scholarship for *Whale of a Mystery*, the 2008 CityLab Biotechnology Summer Program at Bridgewater State College. As part of the scholarship process, we are requiring your student to provide a letter of evaluation from a teacher. Scholarships are competitive. Your input will help us to select students who are enthusiastic and creative learners and would otherwise not be able to participate in such a program due to financial circumstances. Please take a few minutes to complete the evaluation and *return by May 17, 2008* to:

BSC CityLab (Biotechnology Program)
Moakley Technology Center, Room 308
Bridgewater State College
Bridgewater, MA 02325

Name of Student: _____

Current Grade Level: _____

Name of Teacher: _____

Signature of Teacher: _____

Subjects taught to the applicant: _____

Phone Number: _____

School Address: _____

1=High Degree	2=Moderate Degree	3=Minimal Degree	4= Not At All	5=Not Applicable	6=Don't Know
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Using the scale above, please report your overall observations of the student's abilities in the Classroom:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| _____ Working with others | _____ Interest in Science |
| _____ Observation skills | _____ Making decisions |
| _____ Ability to organize information | _____ Research skills (computer and library) |
| _____ Problem-solving | _____ Building things |
| _____ Listening | _____ Making oral presentations |
| _____ Following directions | _____ Writing reports and journal entries |

Candidly, please explain how the student would benefit from the experience of attending the biotechnology summer program.

Please provide us with any additional comments that you feel are relevant to the application.

Thank you for taking the time to provide this information on behalf of your student.

Further information, including full application packets, can be found by visiting our website, <http://webhost.bridgew.edu/CityLab> or by e-mailing us at CityLab@bridgew.edu.

Sincerely,

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Merideth Krevosky, PhD
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