



**Grand County
Water Information Network**

**Science Learning Lab
Information Packet**

Thank you for your interest in GCWIN's Science Learning Lab! We are excited to work with you and your family. This packet is designed to answer questions about the Science Learning Lab. This packet also contains the forms you will need to fill out when booking a session. For further questions please contact Erica Bean at education@gcwin.org or call (970) 627-8162.

About GCWIN

Grand County Water Information Network (GCWIN) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) that manages and consolidates the comprehensive water quality monitoring, information, and educational programs in Grand County, Colorado.

GCWIN was established in 2004 as a collaborative effort to enable better decision-making through science-based water quality monitoring, information-sharing and educational programming. After its initial success of building a strong membership base and developing its monitoring programs, GCWIN has expanded its water quality monitoring programs to include: stream temperature along the Fraser and Colorado Rivers, Secchi in Grand Lake and Shadow Mountain Reservoir, temperature and specific conductivity in the Three Lakes region, macroinvertebrates and River Watch.

A central aspect of GCWIN's mission is our youth education programs. Water education for the younger generations is essential in Grand County as we are at the headwaters of the Colorado River and its major tributaries. GCWIN's multidisciplinary educational programs aim to:

- Facilitate hands-on activities that enable students to interact with their watershed
- Demonstrate the systems of water management within our community
- Introduce the opportunities of environmentally focused careers
- Reinforce the ethic of scientific inquiry and environmental stewardship

Our Science Learning Lab Program

With today's world of uncertainties, it can be difficult for students to adjust to certain changes in their learning environments. We believe it is beneficial to students to have tangible hands-on experiences within their learning programs. Peer interaction and getting outside is also beneficial to both mental and physical health of people of all ages.

According to Harvard Medical School estimates, the average American spends 90% of his or her life indoors. As we age, we become even more inclined to remain sedentary. Many studies have found that just 5-10 minutes of outside time can have a multitude of health and wellness benefits including:

- improving your self esteem
- improve your sleep cycle

- make you feel less anxious, angry, or stressed, therefor improving your mental health
- helps raise energy levels and keeps you calm, positive and focused
- raise your vitamin D levels which are essential for blood cells, bone health and your immune system
- Improves your focus
- Boosts creativity
- Increase problem solving abilities

Our Science Learning Lab Program is designed to teach students environmental science in a fun interactive way that they may not be able to experience in a regular classroom or virtual learning setting. We offer different types of in-person sessions, from individual families that are one-time only to small learning pods that include multiple weeks. Our curriculum focuses on water and environmental education that has been crafted to match Colorado state science standards for grades K-12. We can cater to the individual needs of families with flexible schedule times and unique activities.

What We Offer

Single Family Sessions: We can work with your children one on one with activities and experiments that they would not get to experience in the classroom or online. Our specialized programs will cater to your family's time frame, the students grade level, and individual interests. For example, we can offer enrichment activities such as, water quality testing, aquatic insect collection, nature hikes, and many more. We offer sessions which can be one time or multiple weeks.

Learning Pod Sessions: This is for multiple families with 4-10 students. Our in-person programs set us apart from online learning as students are able to interact, work with their hands, ask questions, and work together on various activities mentioned above. We offer sessions which can be one-time or multiple weeks.

Lesson Content

Our focus is water education where we specialize in the following subjects/activities: water chemistry, macroinvertebrates (aquatic bugs), riparian health, and water supply; although, this is not an exhaustive list of the variety of topics we can cover! Once you sign up, we will provide a "menu" of lessons we are able to offer while also catering to your child's interests.

Pricing

Single Family Session

- 1 – 6 hours per session
- \$30 per hour
- 1 – 4 students

- Parents will choose a select focus from our “menu” of lesson’s GCWIN offers. We can offer other lessons based on the interest of students and availability of materials. GCWIN provides all program materials and equipment. Additionally, these sessions are designed to encourage collaborative learning through asking questions, sharing thoughts, and connecting with their siblings and the teacher. These programs are designed to give students a diverse learning experience that enhances their knowledge of the natural world.

Learning Pod Session

- 1 – 6 hours per session
- \$10 per student / per hour
- 4 – 10 students
- Parents will choose a select focus from our “menu” of lesson’s GCWIN offers. We can offer other lessons based on the interest of students and availability of materials. GCWIN provides all program materials and equipment. Additionally, these sessions are designed to encourage collaborative learning through asking questions, sharing thoughts, and connecting with other students and the teacher. These programs are designed to give students a diverse learning experience that enhances their knowledge of the natural world.

Who is eligible to participate in the Science Learning Lab?

We are offering our programs to all families and students in Grand County, Colorado. We want to enhance the student’s curriculum with hands on learning that focuses on environmental science activities.

As a non-profit organization, we strive to offer fair pricing however we understand times are tough for all families thus a small amount of scholarships is available to students and families who are in need. We will require proof of income as well as a short essay. Inquire within for more details.

When are programs offered:

Programs will begin in October and will cater to family’s needs. We work with families to find days and times that will work best for everyone. To book sessions or to find out more information email Erica Bean at education@gcwin.org or call (970) 627 8162.

Health and Safety

GCWIN takes health and safety very seriously especially concerning the current health concerns of Covid-19. GCWIN follows the health and safety guidelines as directed by the state, county, and national organizations. During programs and activities, GCWIN staff are required to wear a mask while indoors and outdoors when social distancing of six feet is not available. We also require all students and parents, or guardians present to follow the above guidelines as well. Students and parents or guardians must have

access to a hand washing station for all activities and programs. GCWIN will follow other sanitation guidelines, as necessary. We will take other health concerns into consideration to accommodate specific family needs.

Requirements

- We ask that families book sessions at least one week in advance to allow time for curriculum and material preparations.
- Students and parents or guardians present will be asked to wear masks at all times when social distancing is not allowable.
- We require at least a one-week cancellation policy for all programs and activities in order to receive a full refund for the program. We will not be able to reschedule learning pod sessions unless agreed upon by all families in the pod one week in advance. It is the responsibility of the parents of each pod to coordinate a time that works best for the group.
- Payment for sessions is due at the time of booking. We accept personal checks and Paypal payments.
- Have fun! Our goal is to have fun while learning cool things!

COVID-19 Liability Release Waiver

- The World Health Organization has declared the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) a worldwide pandemic. Due to its capacity to transmit from person-to-person through respiratory droplets, the government has set recommendations, guidelines, and some prohibitions which Grand County Water Information Network comply.
- In consideration of my participation in the foregoing, the undersigned acknowledge and agree to the following:

I am aware of the existence of the risk on myself or my child or student's physical appearance to the venue and my participation to the activity of Grand County Water Information Network that may cause injury or illness such as, but not limited to Influenza, MRSA, or COVID-19 that may lead to paralysis or death.

I have not, nor any member(s) of my household have not experienced symptoms that of fever, fatigue, difficulty in breathing, or dry cough or exhibiting any other symptoms relating to COVID-19 or any communicable disease within the last 14 days.

I have not, nor any member(s) of my household, traveled by sea or by air, internationally within the past 30 days.

I did not, nor any member of my household, visit any area within the United States that was reported to be highly affected by COVID-19, in the last 30 days.

I have not been, nor any member(s) of my household, diagnosed to be infected of COVID-19 virus within the last 30 days.

- Following the pronouncements above I hereby declare the following:

I am fully and personally responsible for my own and my child or student's safety and actions while and during participation and I recognize that I may be in any case be at risk of contracting COVID-19.

With full knowledge of the risks involved, I hereby release, waive, discharge the Grand County Water Information Network, its board, officers, independent contractors, affiliates, employees, representatives, successors, and assigns from any and all liabilities, claims, demands, actions, and causes of action whatsoever, directly or indirectly arising out of or related to any loss, damage, injury, or death, that may be sustained by me related to COVID-19 while participating in any activity while in, on, or around the premises or while participating in any activities lead by GCWIN that may lead to unintentional exposure or harm due to COVID-19.

I agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Organization from and against any and all costs, expenses, damages, lawsuits, and/or liabilities or claims arising whether directly or indirectly from or related to any and all claims made by or against any of the released party due to injury, loss, or death from or related to COVID-19.

- By signing below I acknowledge that I have read the foregoing Liability Release Waiver and understand its contents; that I am at least eighteen (18) years old and fully competent to give my consent; That I have been sufficiently informed of the risks involved and give my voluntary consent in signing it as my own free act and deed; that I give my voluntary consent in signing this Liability Release Waiver as my own free act and deed with full intention to be bound by the same, and free from any inducement or representation.

This waiver will remain effective until laws and mandates relevant to COVID-19 are lifted.

Student Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Sign): _____

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Phone: _____

WAIVER AND MEDICAL RELEASE

I, /we agree on behalf of myself, my student herein, or our heirs, successors, and assigns, to release and waive any and all claims for damages which I/we or our student may have so as to release and discharge in advance those parties hereinafter named and further agree to indemnify, hold harmless and defend Grand County Water Information Network, its employees, directors, board members, volunteers and the chaperones, and/or representatives from any and all liability arising from those parties entering my home or property or in connection with my child participating in the event or in connection with any illness or injury or cost of medical treatment or property loss or damage in connection therewith, and I/we further agree to compensate the organization, its employees, directors, board members, volunteers, chaperones, and/or representatives associated with the event for reasonable attorney's fees and expenses arising in connection therewith. Medical Matters: I/we hereby warrant that to the best of my/our knowledge, my/our student is in good health and physically capable of participating in this event, and I/we assume all responsibility for the health of my/our student. Emergency Medical Treatment: In the event of an emergency, I/we hereby give permission to transport my/our student to a hospital for emergency medical or surgical treatment. I wish to be advised prior to any further treatment by the hospital or doctor. In the event of an emergency, if you are unable to reach me at the above numbers, contact:

Emergency Contact Name (print): _____

Relationship: _____ Phone: _____

Signature of
Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____ / _____ / _____