

"Something Is Missing Here: A Teacher Field Camp in Fossils and Taphonomy"

PURPOSE:

"Something Is Missing Here: A Teacher Field Camp in Fossils and Taphonomy" is a professional development field short course (with online follow-up) to provide science teachers with the opportunity to explore the nature of the fossil record and how taphonomic bias affects the interpretation of fossils and ancient environments. Taphonomy refers to everything that happens from the death of any organism, through burial and exhumation, to final collection...even humans! The field program is partially funded by a Paleontological Society Education and Outreach grant. Teachers will conduct field analyses at the **Coon Creek Lagerstätte** locality in McNairy County, Tennessee. Tied directly to national and state science standards, as well as the highly anticipated *Next Generation Science Standards*, teachers will collect fossils in the field setting and investigate, using open-ended inquiry methods, the impact of post-mortem events (e.g., burial, decay, scavenging, transportation, diagenesis, concentration, and deposition) on preservation potential. Teachers keep their own fossil collections from the site for use in their classrooms. The teachers will also critically examine actual ongoing taphonomic research at the site related to this topic, and with overlapping applications to **forensic geology**. This short course aims to provide science teachers with the knowledge and tools necessary to incorporate taphonomy into their earth-science curricula.

COME JOIN US FOR AN EXCITING
EXCURSION INTO THE **POST-MORTEM**
HISTORY OF LIFE ON EARTH.



PARTICIPANTS

Fifteen participants will be selected. Selection criteria include: date of application, potential for applicant's experience being shared with students and other teachers, and demographics - "new" and minority teachers are encouraged to apply.

ESTIMATED EXPENSES

Overnight on-site primitive "camp" lodging & meals are paid for each participant by Paleontological Society funds. Mileage and transportation to and from the Coon Creek site is responsibility of participant. Teachers can sign-up for additional formal credit if desired (will need to pay additional fees to the University not covered by grant funding).

IMPORTANT DATES

May 19, 2014 - Deadline for applications
June 6-9, 2014 - Onsite workshop at Coon Creek Science Center

STAFF

Dr. Michael A. Gibson - Invertebrates Taphonomy
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PLEASE COPY AND CIRCULATE TO OTHERS
WHO MAY BE INTERESTED

APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (Hm): _____

Phone (Wk.): _____

E-mail: _____

Additional Information Requested:

Male _____ Female _____ Birth Date _____

White/Caucasian _____ Black _____ Amer. Native _____

Asian/Pacific Islander _____ Hispanic _____

Present School Affiliation: _____

Public _____ Non-Public _____

Address: _____

Local School System: _____

Grades taught: _____

Subjects taught: _____

Teaching Environment: Inner City _____

suburb _____ rural _____

% Minority _____ % Free Lunch _____

Comment briefly on your previous experiences
teaching earth science: _____

Comment on why you would like to participate in this
program (what specific goals would you expect the
camps to satisfy?): _____

Send to: Dr. Michael A. Gibson,
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