

GCE LTER Schoolyard

(Revised 2024)

GOAL

The goal of the GCE LTER Schoolyard Program is to fully immerse educators into the scientific process in order to better guide their students through scientific thinking and provide relevant resources for other educators.

EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

Participants will immerse themselves in field work, providing assistance to scientists in whatever tasks are asked of them, which may include but is not limited to field work, lab work, cleaning equipment, etc.

At the end of the week, participants are asked to complete the assessment component and share the personal goal and description of an anticipated project planned for the upcoming school year using the Schoolyard experience. This can range from a formal lesson plan, to utilizing Schoolyard pictures, to improving instruction through using scientific processes, etc. Some kind of demonstration or presentation will be expected.

RETURNING PARTICIPANT EXPECTATIONS

Over the course of the week you will be asked to work on a project or an artifact that can be posted on the GCE LTER website and will help educate others about GCE-LTER Schoolyard. This could include supplemental materials for Schoolyard resources, presentation materials for educators outside of the Schoolyard program, review/update past lesson/unit plans or create new plans, videos, virtual field trips, pull relevant data sets, screencast instructions for how to pull a data set, etc. Collaboration is encouraged. You should be prepared to share your product with the Schoolyard group at the end of the week. Returning participants should also be available throughout the following school year to offer support to first time attendees.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of the Schoolyard week, teachers will write a goal for how their experience at the Schoolyard program will influence their school year. At mid-year and the end of the school year they will be contacted and an update should be provided by participants at that time. Mentor support will be available throughout the school year.