Fossil Finders
Professional Development
August 9th–14th, 2009
at Cornell University,
Ithaca, NY

Classrooms teachers at the 5th through 9th grade levels are invited to apply to a summer professional development program that will include the following content:
- Earth’s history and geological time
- Ecology and environmental change
- Diversity and adaptation of organisms
- Populations and extinction
- Nature of science and scientific inquiry
- Instruction, development and implementation of activities using scientific inquiry
- Strategies for reaching under-represented student groups and English language learners
- Collaboration and fieldwork with fellow educators, educational researchers and paleontologists

Program Requirements:
- Participate in two 5-day workshops in Ithaca, NY (over 2 summers)
- Implement the Fossil Finders curriculum unit
- Interact with other participants and staff in an on-line support network
- Revise lessons and provide feedback on curriculum unit
- Participate in a research study related to the implementation of Fossil Finders curriculum materials

Compensation:
- Stipend
  - Summer workshop participation ($750)
  - Online forum interaction and submittal of curriculum revisions ($300)
- Room and Board provided
- Assistance with travel expenses
- Use of laptop computer during project
- Possibility of earning continuing education units
- Digital camera

Research Study Components...
Teachers participating in Fossil Finders will also be part of a research study on the implementation of inquiry in their classrooms. Participation will include:
- Pilot-testing the 2-3 week Fossil Finders curriculum unit in their classrooms during the following two school years.
- Classroom observations and interviews of teachers and students by educational researchers
- An analysis of the impact of this professional development on enhancing knowledge and views of evolution, geology, inquiry and the nature of science
- Web-based interaction in an online support forum with other program participants and professional development staff
Applications from 5th through 9th grade science teachers will be accepted beginning November 1 for a limited number of spaces in the Fossil Finders summer 2009 professional development workshop. Teachers from schools serving diverse and underrepresented student groups are strongly encouraged to apply. For more information or an application visit: www.fossilfinders.org

Email completed applications to: Dr. Barbara Crawford at bac45@cornell.edu

Applications due by March 2nd, 2009 Acceptance notification by April 1st, 2009

Fossil Finders
www.fossilfinders.org

A professional development project for fifth through ninth grade teachers using fossils to engage students in learning evolutionary concepts, geology, and scientific inquiry

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