

**North Carolina State University**  
**INFORMED CONSENT FORM for RESEARCH**

**Title of Study:** The impacts of Candid Critters in middle school classrooms on the attitudes of children towards wildlife

**Principal Investigators:**

---

Stephanie Schuttler	Roland Kays	Rob Dunn
Post-doctoral Researcher	Associate Professor, NCSU	Associate Professor
NC Museum of Natural Sciences	Director of Biodiversity Lab, NCMNS	NCSU
<a href="mailto:stephanie.schuttler@gmail.com">stephanie.schuttler@gmail.com</a>	<a href="mailto:rwkays@ncsu.edu">rwkays@ncsu.edu</a>	<a href="mailto:rdunn@ncsu.edu">rdunn@ncsu.edu</a>
919-707-8088	919-707-8250	

---

---

**GENERAL THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT RESEARCH STUDIES**

You are being asked to take part in a research study. Your participation in this study is voluntary and completely apart from your job requirement. You have the right to be a part of this study, to choose not to participate or to stop participating at any time without penalty. The purpose of research studies is to gain a better understanding of a certain topic or issue. You are not guaranteed any personal benefits from being in a study. Research studies also may pose risks to those that participate. In this consent form you will find specific details about the research in which you are being asked to participate. If you do not understand something in this form it is your right to ask the researcher for clarification or more information. A copy of this consent form will be provided to you. If at any time you have questions about your participation, do not hesitate to contact the researcher(s) named above.

**PURPOSE**

You are asked to participate in a study that is designed to evaluate the impact of Candid Critters, a citizen science camera trapping project, on middle school students' knowledge of attitudes toward wildlife species in North Carolina. We will also be assessing the impact of the project on environmental literacy, science efficacy, and STEM learning outcomes.

**INFORMATION**

Student participants will be asked to take a survey by their teacher, which will be completed within a 20-minute period. Participants will be surveyed both at the beginning and end of an approximately one month period when Candid takes place. Participation in this study is completely voluntary. If selected for participation in this study, you will be asked to distribute student consent forms to students in the participating classes. We will ask you, as the teacher, to provide an alternate activity for those students who do not take part in the survey that will be most beneficial to the student. You will also be asked to complete a 10-15 minute survey about your Candid Critters experience at the end of the project.

### **RISKS**

There are no significant foreseeable risks of participation in this study. You are also free to withdraw from the study at any time by emailing Stephanie Schuttler ([stephanie.schuttler@gmail.com](mailto:stephanie.schuttler@gmail.com)).

### **BENEFITS**

Your responses will help evaluate Candid Critters and the corresponding lesson plans. Students participating in the Candid Critters educational program will benefit by participating authentically in the scientific process. We anticipate the program to be highly engaging and likely to improve environmental literacy and STEM scores. Further, we anticipate that by explaining the purpose of the study to the class, collecting data, and then offering a report, students will gain insight into the scientific process. For control schools, we will expose teachers to Candid Critters and offer them opportunities to participate in coming years. The goal of Candid Critters lesson plans is develop scale-able lesson plans that will eventually be used state-wide.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

The information in study records will be kept strictly confidential. The identity of the teacher will be known to the researchers, however links between individual teachers and data will be destroyed when data is entered into a spreadsheet for analysis. Students will be assigned a non-identifying code, but these links will also be destroyed when data is entered for analysis. Public reports from this study will focus on aggregate data; we are interested in reporting general trends of students' knowledge attitudes. We will not identify individual teachers, classes, or schools in any public reports. Additionally, no individual student data will be reported so that the identity and responses from students will be strictly confidential. Some students may be interviewed for follow up questions on their answers. These students will be randomly chosen and their names will not be told to the researcher.

### **CONTACT**

If you have questions at any time about the study or the procedures, you may contact the principal investigator, Stephanie Schuttler at 919-707-8088. If you feel you have not been treated according to the descriptions in this form, or your rights as a participant in research have been violated during the course of this project, you may contact Deb Paxton, Regulatory Compliance Administrator, Box 7514, NCSU Campus (919/515-4514).

## **PARTICIPATION**

Your participation in this study is voluntary; you may decline to participate without penalty. If you decide to participate, you may withdraw from the study at any time without penalty and without loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. If you withdraw from the study before data collection is completed, your data will be returned to you or destroyed at your request.

Participation is not a requirement of your employment.

## **CONSENT**

**“I have read and understand the above information. I have received a copy of this form. I agree to participate in this study with the understanding that I may withdraw at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which I am otherwise entitled.”**

**Teacher’s signature:**

**Date:**

**Investigator’s signature:**

**Date:**