

Dear NC teacher,

You are among a small group of middle school teachers that has been selected to participate in this study – an evaluation of the educational outcomes associated with the Candid Critters citizen science project. Candid Critters is a citizen science camera trapping project that aims to understand the diversity, distribution, and behavior of mammals.

Your participation would include your students to take a survey twice during the school year (approximately 4 weeks apart). We are interested in assessing if and how Candid Critters impacts children's knowledge of and attitudes towards wildlife, as well as broader outcomes related to environmental literacy, science efficacy, and STEM learning. Therefore, to appropriately understand the changes that may occur in students' attitudes, we are looking for control classrooms to participate where Candid Critters is not incorporated into the curriculum.

I have sent your principal a letter similar to this one explaining the project. I have not, however, released your name as a potential participant. You should not feel pressured to participate, but if you would like to discuss this project with your principal, he or she should have gotten some information from me.

The responses you and your students will provide during this evaluation effort are confidential. Participation in this study is voluntary and there is no penalty for not participating. The link to a two question survey to confirm your participation can be found here: https://ncsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8q8kT76nmBRaEnj. At the beginning of the survey, please read and complete the consent form to confirm your intent to participate in the full study. Once your survey responses are received, we will contact you to confirm your participation. If you have any questions about the study, please feel free to contact me directly. My e-mail address is stephanie.schuttler@gmail.com and phone number is 919-707-8088. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
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