Frequently Asked Questions – For Researchers

What is OSU-National Lab Day? OSU-National Lab Day is a collaborative outreach effort between five colleges (CAS, CASNR, COE, CEAT, and COHS) and is geared toward exposing Oklahoma high school students and their science teachers to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education. Visiting high school student groups attend three different sessions with researchers (like you) throughout the day. The 8th annual OSU-National Lab Day will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2017.

What do OSU-National Lab Day sessions look like? Sessions are 45-60 minutes in length. During the session, researchers will provide a hands-on, engaging experience that illustrates their research and related STEM majors/careers. These sessions will take place in the researcher’s laboratory so that visiting high school students get the “lab” experience. Helpful hints for a successful lab session: (1) have the students DO something and (2) keep PowerPoint presentations and lectures to a minimum.

Example lab sessions:
- Mars and Lunar habitat simulation
- Extracting and isolating DNA
- Robot demonstrations
- Hormone behavior trials of lizards
- Energy harvesting
- Fire behavior experiments

How do I register to host a session? You can pre-register to host a session by contacting Rachel Potts at rachel.potts@okstate.edu. Before the event, you will need to provide (1) an appealing/interesting title and short description of your activity session – captivating session titles are key to garnering the interest of students, (2) names of all presenters and/or graduate students who will participate, and (3) the location and preferred times for your session. Additionally, you may want to provide information about your program or other recruitment/promotional items (pens, stickers, etc.) to be distributed to approximately 125 participating students at the end of the day.

Who is my audience? One of the goals of OSU-National Lab Day is to inspire high school students to consider a STEM related major/career. In order to maintain a personal and interactive experience, each session will consist of one high school science teacher, approximately seven high school students (sophomores or juniors) and one volunteer. Remember that your activity needs to appeal to students ranging from age 15-17.

What is the time commitment for participating? Researchers must register to host and prepare their session activity. Ideally, we ask researchers to host two or three sessions in their research laboratory. Graduate students can also be enlisted to help. The three session times are (1) 9:30-10:15 a.m. (2) 10:30-11:15 a.m. (3) 12:45-1:30 p.m.

How will I benefit from participating in OSU-National Lab Day? Not only will you help to inspire the scientists of tomorrow, but you will also play a key role in recruiting these prospective high school students to your respective programs at OSU. You will also receive a “University Service” for your CV and a free lunch for you and your participating graduate student(s).

For more information: Please contact OSU-National Lab Day Chair, Julie Angle at 405.744.8147 or julie.angle@okstate.edu. Session information can be sent directly to rachel.potts@okstate.edu.