Kaycee Manuppella, Toby Swaford, and Melinda Macpherson had the opportunity to attend and lead a couple of presentations at last week’s PwrHrs Rural Afterschool Conference in Beaver Creek. This first time conference brought together a “strong network of educators, organizations, and thought leaders to share information, gain expertise, and collectively build a roadmap to support the quality and sustainability of afterschool programming in our rural communities.” It was a great opportunity to network and to learn about the programming that those working in the afterschool space are providing in the 26 states that were represented at the conference. Kaycee and Toby presented about the opportunities to incorporate both AmeriCorps members and volunteers into out-of-school time 4-H STEM programming and led the group in building and launching stomp rockets. Melinda had the opportunity to share details of our 4-H STEM AmeriCorps program during the session on the three streams of AmeriCorps service (State/National, NCCC, and VISTA). We cannot wait to continue the conversations that started at the conference and to share what we learned with all of you!

This Month’s Highlights

Trimester 1 ends on Tuesday, December 31, 2019. Are you ready to submit your reports? Need help? Let’s talk at the December 3rd Member Zoom Meeting!

We wish everyone a festive and restful Thanksgiving!

If you want to be featured in a member/supervisor bio or have an idea for an experiment that you would like to share with other members, please contact us so they can be included in future newsletters.

MELTING SNOWMAN
WINTER SLIME RECIPE

What you’ll need:
- ½ cup white glue
- 1 teaspoon of baking soda
- 1 tablespoon of Contact Lens Saline Solution
- Ping Pong Balls
- Permanent markers
- Plastic or styrene plates (Select a festive color to contrast with the melting snowman)
- Craft sticks for stirring the mixture
- Measuring cups and spoons
- Various accessories for the snowman such as wiggly eyes, buttons, felt cut into long strips for scarfs, orange fun foam to make carrot noses, or pom-poms for ear muffs. Craft Stems / Pipe Cleaners make good arms, or have the children go outside to find small twigs.

See page 2 for complete directions
Melting Snowman continued from page 1:

What to do:
- Use the markers and accessories to decorate the Ping Pong Ball head
- Mix the glue and baking soda together.
- Add the contact solution and stir quickly to mix the ingredients together.
- Keep stirring until the slime forms a single mass around the stir stick.
- Form two balls from the slime mixture and arrange them into a snowman body
- Decorate with buttons, a scarf, arms, etc.
- Place the Ping Pong ball head atop of the body.
- Set the snowman on the plate and watch as melt into a puddle.

The Science:
Mixtures, substances, polymers, cross linking, states of matter, elasticity, and viscosity are just a few of the science concepts that can be explored with homemade slime!

What’s the science behind the slime? The borate ions in the slime activators (sodium borate, borax powder, or boric acid) mix with the PVA (polyvinyl-acetate) glue and forms this cool stretchy substance. This is called cross linking!
The glue is a polymer and is made up of long, repeating, and identical strands or molecules. These molecules flow past one another keeping the glue in a liquid state. Until...

SLIME IS A NON-NEWTONIAN FLUID
When you add the borate ions to the mixture, it starts to connect these long strands together. They begin to tangle and mix until the substance is less like the liquid you started with and thicker and rubberier like slime! Slime is a polymer. Picture the difference between wet spaghetti and leftover spaghetti the next day. As the slime forms the tangled molecule strands are much like the clump of spaghetti!

Is slime a liquid or solid? We call it a Non-Newtonian fluid because it’s a little bit of both! Experiment with making the slime more or less viscous with varying amounts of foam beads. Can you change the density?

We want to see you in action! Please send us pictures of your programming!

Upcoming events:

**Nov 28:** Happy Thanksgiving! Check with your county office for holiday hours.

**Dec 3:** Member PD Zoom Meeting 7pm

**Dec 13:** Independent Learning Assignment Due in OCR

**Dec 25:** Christmas Holiday, check with your county office for winter holiday hours.

**Dec 31:** First Trimester Ends—Reporting is due! Just a reminder to start reporting early!

Alumni Corner:
Thinking about professional development or connecting with some fellow AmeriCorps alumni? Check out the AmeriCorps Alums website (https://www.americorpsalums.org/)! It’s free to join!

Interested in a career in extension, outreach, research, or higher education? Check out the National Job Bank at jobs.joe.org!