

One Day Forensic Out Reach Program Curriculum

This has worked well during summers and during the school year on Saturdays: The lay out and logistics will be dependent on the number of participants. We divided ours into 4 groups of 10. Since our location and facility had the ability to use multiple rooms that is how we set up. We contacted our local law enforcement agency and they provided officers for polygraphs, fingerprinting, photography, and the internet crimes stations. We also had the State Patrol bring the crime scene mobile van on site. The students got to tour inside that with an officer to explain. We are lucky enough to have forensic soil and entomology experts at our local university. Our nursing college partners frequently with them as classroom speakers for our forensic nursing elective and we are speakers for their undergraduate forensics programs. We also do programs like this together. I have used small snippets of this program for hour presentations on evidence collection for junior and senior high students who are involved in their local Civil Air Patrol program. They actually utilize the information when they are helping with missing persons, and airplane crash locations. So the information can be useful as well as informative and fun.

1. a room for polygraphs
2. a room for entomology and the part insects play in crime scenes
3. a room for soil and how soil tells where people have been and how it is used along with flora and fauna in crime scenes
4. a room for internet crimes (this was to show kids how easy it is for predators to link up to them in chat rooms and showed them how to be safe internet users)
5. fingerprint station for those who wanted to be fingerprinted for ID purposes and simple fingerprint information was explained
6. lab personnel were there to explain DNA and the many ways it can be obtained
7. photography station explained about night and daytime photography
8. We used our nursing skills lab mannequin to show how evidence is collected and preserved along with the use of fluorescing evidence with the black light. Locard's exchange principle is explained. The kids get to move the black light over the victim. We bought some fluorescent protein "goop" on line for this. This particular station also showed how nurses can be an active member of the forensics team and gather evidence for law enforcement
9. The State Patrol and the mobile crime scene van in the parking lot
10. Mock crime scene with evidence collection by the students. This was the final project of the day. They were able to use crime scene tape, we furnished evidence bags (paper lunch bags), all necessary equipment to collect evidence and then each team had to decide what had happened and why, given information they learned previously during the day.

8:00-9:00 Welcome and general information of the day's activities
Juice and rolls provided. Groups and numbers in each group were established

9-11:30 Each group of ten was started at a different station. The students spent 20-30 minutes at each station.

11:30-12:30 box lunches were provided for participants

12:30-3:00 Students finished up with stations

3-3:30 Students participated in crime scene evidence collection using basic information learned from the stations

Evaluations were filled out at the end of the day. The cost is minimal and the multidisciplinary team approach is stressed along with "this is nothing like the CSI effect." All members of the community volunteered their time.

Have fun with this! We did!