

2018-2019 Education Survey Results

Below is a summary of data collected from teacher and student surveys distributed between September 2018 and June 2019. Teacher surveys were emailed to teachers after their field trip to Cedar Creek. A total of 64 teachers and chaperones submitted surveys. Students completed paper surveys in their classrooms within 2 weeks of their field trip. 50 surveys were given to each school in order to encourage a representative sample from across schools and grade levels. A total of 903 surveys were collected from 25 schools. Key findings from the survey results are listed below. Thank you for participating in our evaluation work!

- Across all grade levels, interest in science increased after attending Cedar Creek (Table 1)
- In all grade level bins, at least 82% of students answered ‘yes’ or ‘kind of’ when asked if they felt like a scientist on their field trip (Fig. 1)
 - Students who reported feeling like a scientist while at Cedar Creek were more likely to have larger jumps in interest in science after their Cedar Creek experience.
- When asked whether they had used any new scientific tools, many students described or drew the primary tool used during their field trip. This included quadrats, soil corers, waders, lux meters, water testing tablets, and thermometers.
- When asked about whether they learned something new about what scientists do, the majority of students answered ‘yes’ or ‘kind of’ (Fig. 2). Students reported a new understanding of the length of time of experiments as well as a better understanding of the scientific process.
 - *“I learned that some experiments/studies go on for much longer than I expected.”* -11th grader
 - *“I thought they just got stuff to look at under the microscope, but now I know that they go in the prairie, forest, etc. And look at the temperature and they check the dirt.”* -5th grader
- Teachers rated the field trip very favorably, with 85% of teachers reporting that the program experience completely met their goals, and 15% reporting that it somewhat met their goals.
- Two prominent themes emerged from the open-ended comments:
 - Suggestions for making Cedar Creek content even more supportive of student learning.
 - 80% of responding teachers expressed interest in a video that introduces Cedar Creek, its research, and the field trip experience. We are working to create this!
 - Several teachers suggested training opportunities for educators on how to think like a scientist, work with data, and incorporate science process skills/thinking into instruction. We are working with partners to offer these trainings in the future.
 - Affirmation that the Cedar Creek experience is engaging and memorable for students. Some examples below:
 - *The experiences at Cedar Creek are ones that my 8th graders put on their list of “best thing I did all year/unforgettable experiences”. I love that!*
 - *It was the best field trip my students had been on. They appreciated that it was 100% hands-on learning and that at no point were they being lectured to about a topic.*
 - *Cedar Creek staff are great! They have always worked well with our students (even when our students have been resistant to outdoor experiences!).*
 - *Every year, the educational programming gets better and better.*
 - *This is the best field trip we take all year! The staff works to make our experience fit our Science standards. Students remember it all year.*
 - *Several students expressed a verbal interest in doing science later in life and were interested in the research aspects of our visit.*

Table 1: Self-reported change in interest in science by grade level bin. Note increases in ‘very interested’ and ‘interested’ categories, and decreases in ‘kind of interested’ and ‘not at all interested’ categories.

1 st – 4 th grade	Before visit	After visit	Percent change
Very Interested	32	62	94%
Interested	29	54	86%
Kind Of Interested	51	21	-59%
Not at all Interested	16	13	-19%

5 th and 6 th grade	Before visit	After visit	Percent change
Very Interested	40	89	123%
Interested	75	108	44%
Kind Of Interested	118	58	-51%
Not at all Interested	45	20	-56%

7 th and 8 th grade	Before visit	After visit	Percent change
Very Interested	38	87	129%
Interested	128	163	27%
Kind Of Interested	166	84	-49%
Not at all Interested	23	19	-17%

High School	Before visit	After visit	Percent change
Very Interested	32	38	19%
Interested	62	74	19%
Kind Of Interested	35	23	-34%
Not at all Interested	8	2	-75%

Figure 1: “Did you feel like a scientist on your field trip?” Student answers binned by grade level.

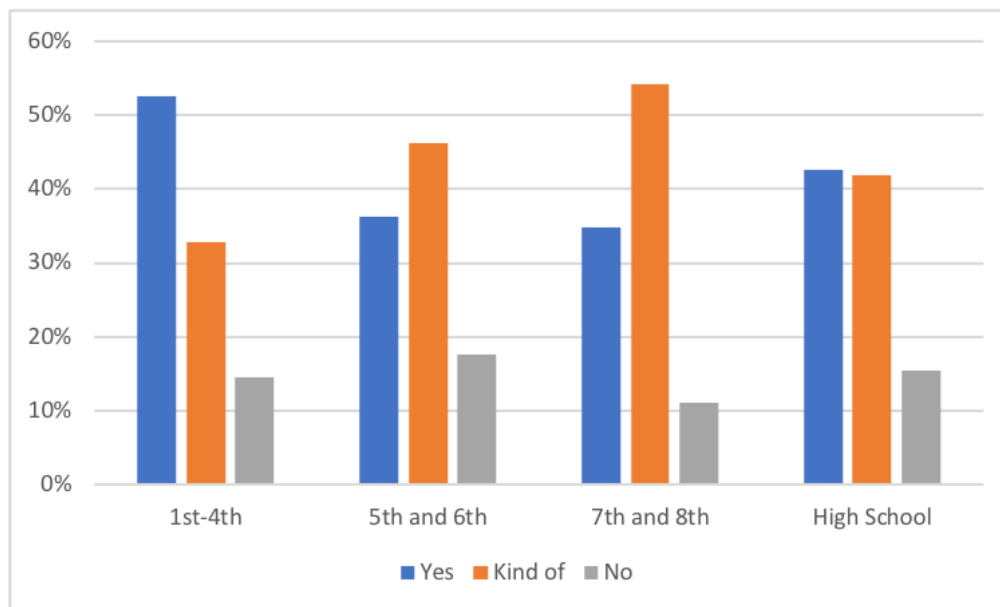


Figure 2: "Did you learn something new on your field trip?" Student answers binned by grade level.

