

**Only Minimal Risk  
Parental or Guardian Consent (Without HIPAA)**

Principal Investigator      Dr. Dave Smaldone  
Department                    Recreation, Parks & Tourism  
Protocol Number              **1903511420**  
Study Title                      **Engaging Citizen Scientists to Monitor Water Quality of Deckers Creek**  
Co-Investigator(s)          **Dr. Nancy Spillane**  
Sponsor (if any)              **EPA**

**Contact Persons**

If you have any questions, concerns, or complaints about this research, you can contact Dr. Dave Smaldone at 304-293-7404.

For information regarding your child’s rights as a research subject, to discuss problems, concerns, or suggestions related to the research, to obtain information or offer input about the research, contact the Office of Research Integrity and Compliance (304) 293-7073.

In addition, if you would like to discuss problems, concerns, have suggestions related to research, or would like to offer input about the research, contact the Office of Research Integrity and Compliance at 304-293-7073.

**Introduction**

Your child, \_\_\_\_\_, has been asked to participate in this research study, which has been explained to you and your child by a project team member. This study is being conducted by Dr. Dave Smaldone in the Recreation, Parks & Tourism Program at West Virginia University.

This research is being conducted to better understand the benefits and learning of youth who participate in a water quality monitoring citizen science project focused on the Deckers Creek watershed (in the Morgantown area).

**Purpose(s) of the Study**

The purpose of this project is to use: 1) engage youth and the public in citizen science (CS) efforts, to 2) provide beneficial outdoor environmental education and stewardship restoration opportunities linked to this CS effort, that will 3) help increase the participants’ knowledge about water quality and CS.

## Description of Procedures

Your child will be attending the citizen science activities with the Camp Mountaineer staff during their week-long camp. These activities will be integrated into their weekly Scout badge activities (specifically the Environmental Science &/or Soil & Water Conservation badges). Participation in the activities will be at Camp Mountaineer this summer from June-July 2021. Your child will be asked to fill out a short questionnaire before participating (on Monday morning of their camp week) and again after participating (on Friday at the end of their camp week). The questions are about science knowledge and interest, water quality, and stewardship of natural resources. The questionnaires ask the same questions to see if participating in the citizen science project impacted their knowledge and interests. It will take approximately 10 minutes to complete each questionnaire. Your child does not have to answer all the questions. If you choose, you can have the opportunity to see the questionnaire before signing this consent form.

The study will be performed at Camp Mountaineer. Approximately 100 youth from Camp Mountaineer are expected to participate in this study during the summer.

## Risks and Discomforts

There are no known or expected risks to your child from participating in this study, except potentially mild frustration associated with answering the questions.

## Alternatives

Your child does not have to participate in this study.

## Benefits

Participation in the project will hopefully provide your child with information about science, water quality and the local Deckers Creek watershed. Your child may not receive any direct benefit from this study (filling out the questionnaires). The knowledge gained from this study will be used to improve this project and experience for other students in the future.

## Financial Considerations

No payments will be made for participating in the study.

## Confidentiality

Any information about your child that is obtained as a result of their participation in this research will be kept as confidential as legally possible.

In any publications that result from this research, neither your child's name nor any information from which your child might be identified will be published without your consent.

## Voluntary Participation

Participation is voluntary. Refusal to participate or withdrawal will not affect your child in any way, and will involve no penalty to you.

## Signatures

Upon signing this consent, you will receive a copy.

I willing consent to allow my child to participate in this research.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

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Printed Name

Date

Time

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Signature of Investigator or Co-Investigator

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Printed Name

Date

Time

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