

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: How long will I have with students?

A: Most programs run about two hours, depending on where our visiting students are coming from, they will arrive at about 4pm, make it to you around 4.10pm. You will have them until about 6pm. In some cases we can extend that time, but please be sure to check with me first as we will have to make alternate plans for feeding the kids.

Q: How old are the visitors?/What grade level are the visitors?

A: Most of our programming will be for Middle school students; that potentially grades 5 – 8 or ages 9--14. This is a pretty wide developmental spread, so we recommend that presentations be targeted to the 6th or 7th grade level. If you would like help with determining what sort of background knowledge or developmental traits are average for that grade level in your subject please feel free to contact me.

Q: How many of these kids will there be?

A: our programs are set up for a MAXIMUM of thirty students- in the past we have rarely topped 20. However, we must be prepared to accommodate the maximum number. Along with the 30 students there may be a few peer tutors whom you can include in the presentation if you choose to.

Q: How are these kids chosen?

A: All of the students will be from the same school district, and will have enrolled in something called the *Community Learning Center*. They will do so voluntarily so as to have a place to work on homework and study skills after school. Part of the CLC grant is our program here at Alfred, so the visitors who arrive will be students from a particular district's CLC but will be of mixed gender, academic ability and grade level.

Q: Will I be all alone with 30 sugared-up Middle Schoolers!?

A: No. We will provide several AU student volunteers who will assist you in any way you see fit, also, the group will be chaperoned by at least one and sometimes two adults from the CLC. CYLI personnel will also be on hand when possible.

Q: Who provides the student volunteers?

A: CYLI will provide some general student workers to herd the visitors around and supervise them in small groups. However we ask that you find a few students who are interested in education or public service as well as whatever the topic of your presentation is so that the visitors have someone closer to their age to interact with.

Q: What are the visitors doing before the presentation?

A: The answer varies, but generally enjoying a bus ride that lasts from 15 minutes to an hour through scenic Allegany County. When time allows, CYLI will provide a snack and a short time to stretch the wiggles out before we send them to you.

Q: What's the attention span of a middle schooler like?

A: Very much like a hyperactive squirrel. Students at this age group are going to need help staying on task- the best way to help them is to include several mini-lessons into your program interspersed with time to move around or practice what you have just shown them. Blowing things up is a plus!

Q: Are there any special safety concerns?

A: Yes. Please don't allow visitors to wander around unescorted—if your presentation requires multiple locations, make arrangements with me to get extra student volunteers to go with them. Also, bathroom trips should be supervised—we should have students or adults who can take care of this for you. Other than that, power tools, dangerous chemicals or equipment are going to be off limits for the little ones. If you have any questions about the safety of a demonstration or activity, please contact me.