

MESSAGE FROM: Rachel Hogan <[rhogan@nurturenature.org](mailto:rhogan@nurturenature.org)> on CREATE Ambassador Program  
DATE: Apr 17, 2019

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Dear CREATE Resilience Advisory Team,

It's been an active season for the CREATE Resilience project and our activities are going very well.

In February, our students received a fantastic virtual presentation from our National Weather Service advisory team partners Rob Shedd (Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center) and Ray Kruzdl (Mt. Holly Weather Forecast Office) on NOAA resources and NWS forecast tools. The students really enjoyed that presentation and have asked for a follow-up to keep learning – thanks, Rob and Ray! We also hosted our three kickoff meetings in each community, with strong turnout and interesting discussion at each. Many thanks to Tom Guth and Northampton County Emergency Management Services team, and Geoff Reese of Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and his team, for helping to present the data for the region at those meetings.

**STORYGATHERING FOR EXHIBIT** Following those meetings, we have been busy working with our **CREATE Youth Ambassadors** to start gathering personal stories of hazards for residents. The CREATE Youth Ambassadors are working with Professor Sarah Stanlick, founding director of Lehigh University's Center for Community Engagement and the rest of our team here at NNC and have been trained in interviewing and gathering stories. This past week, we hosted three open house times during which residents of the communities could come be interviewed by the students. We also used this time to help the students brainstorm other individuals we could find to be interviewed. They will be gathering interviews throughout the month of May, and curating the conversations into stories that will be incorporated into an exhibit at NNC that will accompany our forum discussion. **PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR for that date: 7 p.m. Thursday, September 26.** This will be a very big event for the project and we would love to have our advisory team members there as participants in that discussion. More to follow this fall, but please hold that evening for this event. If you have recommendations of people in the area who have been affected by hazards with whom we might talk, please forward those on. Thank you in advance!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR: 4:30 p.m. April 26, 2019** At the request of students, we just scheduled another great speaker to come in and discuss climate issues with the students. We are gearing this event toward our Youth Ambassadors and their high school peers, but also inviting our advisory team, and friends and families of the youth to attend. **Friday, April 26 at 4:30 p.m.**, Maurice Henderson from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center will be coming to present part of the Sphere presentation on climate change with Kate: **"You Call It Home, I Call It The Living Earth – NASA Sees Earth From Space"**. He is a phenomenal, entertaining and motivating speaker, so this is not one that you want to miss. Following the presentation, NNC will be hosting an opening for a new art exhibit from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., with light refreshments and beverages. If you can, plan to stay or return for the art reception immediately after – there will be a new VR exhibit on climate change, and an exhibition on changes in Alaska. School representatives: if you have environmental clubs or teachers who might be interested, please feel free to spread the word about this presentation to them (flyer attached).

In May, we will be hosting **HAZARD TOURS** for each community, in which we will make stops at several high-impact hazard locations to learn more about the science, history and impacts. Some of our advisory team members may help present some of this information. The students from each district will be attending the hazard tour for their community. We will publish a schedule of stops for each community and invite you (as well as members of the public) to join and learn alongside us. These are being shaped now, but as examples, we know that Easton's tour will include a stop at Bushkill Park and the City of Easton's Department of Public Works compound, which is in the floodplain. Dates for these are:

**May 19, 10 a.m. to noon – Hazard Tour for Easton**

**May 19 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. – Hazard Tour for Wilson**

**June 2, 10 a.m. to noon – Hazard Tour for Bangor**

Also in May, our advisory team member Dr. William Solecki with the Consortium for Climate Risk in the Urban Northeast <http://www.ccrun.org/> will deliver a climate change presentation. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR 7 p.m., MAY 30, at NNC** for that presentation. It will be another great one!

In between these activities, we (Kate, Keri, Rachel and also Lauren Fosbenner, a Lehigh University community fellow here at NNC), have been interviewing municipal leaders to understand the hazards in each community. We have held interviews with the City of Easton, Forks Township, Palmer Township, Borough of Portland, Upper Mt. Bethel Township, Bangor Borough, Wilson

Borough, and are scheduled to interview Williams Township later this week. We have learned a lot about the range of hazards in each place, and what the community leaders would like residents to understand. This information will help us in shaping future events, and the process has helped develop relationships that will help us to continue to expand our reach of involved residents. It has been refreshing to find a positive reception to the project and its goals – municipalities struggle with hazards, and appreciate very much our efforts to help with education and public engagement.

Thanks to everyone for your help so far. We will plan a team call later this spring or early summer, and I will keep you updated via email in the interim. Please try to attend the upcoming events and be sure to mark your calendar for September 26 now so we can be sure to have our advisory team there. Many thanks,

Rachel

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