HARVARD UNIVERSITY HARVARD FOREST
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Dear Educator,

Welcome! We are so excited that you would like to collaborate with us for the upcoming school year and bring our citizen science projects into your classroom. This letter outlines what is involved in our collaboration and what to expect over the course of the year(s).

For 20 years, the Harvard Forest Schoolyard Ecology Project has been helping teachers and informal educators get their youth outside and using Science as a tool to understand how climate change is impacting their neighborhoods and contributing to the broader picture by sharing their data with the Harvard Forest scientific community. Through our citizen science projects, we empower students and the adults who support them to use Science as a tool for building a relationship with the natural world, and to ultimately join the community of climate change problem solvers. We support educators in building their student's data literacy skills through year-round professional development and coaching support.

Our programming and projects are **free of cost**, but do involve a commitment of time. Due to the long term nature of the data sets that we are collecting, **we ask educators to commit to at least two school years of data collection,** though we welcome and celebrate when our collaborations continue for much longer. Of our current 88 active educators, 31% have collaborated with us for 5 or more years. We also ask that if a teacher is moving on to a new school, job opportunity, or retiring, they help us to the best of their ability pass the project on to a new teacher or educator at their site.

The flow of the year:
-Spring/Summer: Talk with the Youth Education Manager to select appropriate projects for our three projects.
-Summer Institute (Late July-1 day with 2nd optional day-6-12 PDPs): Educators work with Harvard Forest project ecologists to learn the science behind our projects, practice data collection, and receive all materials that they need to implement data collection in the classroom.
-Winter Data workshop (Early January-6 PDPs): Educators receive support on entering data into the Harvard Forest Schoolyard Database, and utilizing data for interpretation and data literacy activities.
-Spring Workshop (Early April-6 PDPs): Training on spring data collection, forest excursions, celebrations of milestone years for educators.
Year round: Access to 1:1 coaching and on site support from project coaches and Youth Education Manager. Access to project ecologists to ask questions. Monthly community zoom calls (1 PDP) to discuss pertinent topics, hear guest speakers, and share resources.

Please reach out with any and all questions and we look forward to working with you!

Katharine S. Hinkle

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