



CSI Youth Forensic Science Program

June 21—27, 2015



Audience

This one-week residential summer program is for students currently in grades 7-9 and at least 12 years old. Seventeen (17) students participated in the 2015 CSI program; twelve (12) females and five (5) males. All students are required to have a GPA of 3.5 or above. Students must provide proof of strong standardized test scores (SAT, ACT, Tier I MEAP in Science) as well as a positive teacher recommendation.

Funding

This program is funded by student tuition. Scholarships are available to families with financial need. The funds are provided through the Dorothy Lawshe Endowment.

Objectives

Students participating in this program receive opportunities to explore various aspects of forensic science through lab and/or hands on experiences during 40 hours of contact time. The expectation for each student is to be able to:

- *Describe the value of a wide variety of types of evidence
- *Collect evidence properly through an understanding of how crime scene documentation, photography and chain of custody work
- *Understand the various opportunities available for careers in forensic science
- * Develop interests in science and criminal justice

Contact Information:

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Description

The curriculum for this program is paced for academically able students with strong backgrounds in science, who are interested in working with professionals in the field of forensic science. Each day's curriculum focuses on one area of forensics. Students participate in lectures, lab experiences, and mock crime scenes. While collecting evidence from crime scenes, they analyze their findings in the laboratory and ultimately present their conclusions at the end of the program.

Instruction is provided by two (2) MSU full time professors, one (1) MSU graduate instructor, four (4) graduate TAs, and six (6) forensic science experts. Evening activities include a presentation from the MSU Honors College and the MSU Forensic Club, use of campus facilities, team building activities, and completing daily homework assignments.

Outcomes

Each student participated in 17 areas of forensic science followed with hands-on lab activities. The students completed lab analysis of a crime scene and then presented their findings and conclusions on the final day of the program, using their documented evidence.

Curriculum includes: introduction to forensics, crime scene documentation, forensic analysis of blood evidence, fingerprinting, controlled substances, trace evidence, impression evidence, pathology, forensic art, crime scene documentation, handwriting analysis, expert witness testimony, blood spatter stringing and evidence collection at crime scenes, pathology, pig autopsy, firearms and tool marks, law/legal issues/testifying, arson investigation, and a rescue and cadaver dog demonstration/lecture led by their volunteer owner/trainers.