

Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX

## PARENT PERMISSION FOR MINOR TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

### *Geoscience Exposure and Training in Texas (GET Texas)*

David Moss, PhD Syracuse University, MS University of Oklahoma, BS Centenary College (Louisiana) from the Department of Environmental and Geosciences at Sam Houston State University (SHSU) is the lead investigator conducting a research study.

Your child was selected as a possible participant in this study because they will be invited to attend an activity or talk on geoscience education and careers. Your child's participation in this research study is voluntary.

#### **Why is this study being done?**

The purpose of this study is to assess student and teacher perceptions of the geosciences before and after participating in GET Texas events.

By doing this study, we hope to learn how more students and teachers can become involved in future geoscience opportunities. Your participation in this research will last up to 20-25 minutes for each of the pre- and post-surveys.

#### **What will happen if my child takes part in this research study?**

If you decide to allow your child to participate, you will not need to do anything, and it will be a record of your agreement to participate. If you decide you do not allow your child to participate, you will need to sign this form and have your child return it to their teacher via email or hard copy. We will keep a record of this, and you can keep this consent for your records. If your child participates, they will:

- Take a confidential, encrypted online pre-survey on their education experience and their perceptions of geoscience;
- Participate in a U.S. National Science Foundation-funded GET Texas geoscience talk or activity with Sam Houston State or Lone Star College- University Park faculty;
- Take a confidential, encrypted online post-survey on their education experience and their perceptions of geoscience after taking part in GET Texas.

These activities and survey responses will take place in your student's high school classrooms, at Lone Star College, at Sam Houston State University. Your child may also choose to take surveys at home. You may choose to opt your student out of participation at any time during the study.

#### **How long will my child be in the research study?**

Participation will take a total of up to 20-25 minutes for the completion of each of the two surveys (pre- and post). The pre-survey will be taken approximately one week prior to

the GET Texas activity. The post survey should be completed within 24 hours of the activity that students participated in.

### **Are there any potential risks or discomforts that my child can expect from this study?**

- The only minor risks expected are that confidential student responses and comments about their school district could result in discomfort in the future. However, all efforts will be made to keep responses confidential. All collected data will be downloaded from secure, online survey platforms within one year of the survey response and kept only on password-protected devices by GET Texas project personnel. At this point, no name-linked information will be accessible online. Once downloaded, individual survey responses will be de-identified to remove any links between survey responses and names and schools of participants.

### **Are there any potential benefits to my child if he or she participates?**

Your child may benefit from the study by being introduced to new career paths and opportunities related to geoscience.

The results of the research may result in more integration and student and teacher participation in the geosciences, thereby helping to fill expected geoscience employment shortfalls in Texas and the U.S. in the coming decade.

### **Will my child be paid for participating?**

- Your child will not receive any compensation for taking or completing the pre- or post-surveys in this study.

### **Will information about my child's participation be kept confidential?**

Your child's survey responses will be kept confidential to the extent of the technology being used. Qualtrics collects IP addresses for respondents to surveys they host; however, the ability to connect survey responses to IP address has been disabled for this survey. That means that we will not be able to identify responses other than through responses your child chooses to provide. You should keep in mind that answers to specific questions may make respondents more easily identifiable. The security and privacy policy for Qualtrics can be viewed at: <https://www.qualtrics.com/security-statement/>. Any identifying information provided will be disclosed only with your permission or as required by law. Upon collecting online surveys, we will download all responses within one year, and code the individual survey responses with a combination of numbers to remove all names and other identifying information from digitized data. A password-protected key that links respondents to the survey codes will be kept separately from individual survey responses. Only senior personnel on the GET Texas project will have access to the key to identify the survey participants should we need to follow up. All identifying information and related survey records will be destroyed three years after the GET Texas project has ended.

**What are my and my child’s rights if he or she takes part in this study?**

- You can choose whether or not you want your child to be in this study, and you may opt your student out or discontinue your child’s participation at any time.
- Whatever decision you make, there will be no penalty to you or your child, and no loss of benefits to which you or your child were otherwise entitled.
- Your child may refuse to answer any questions that he/she does not want to answer and still remain in the study.
- Your decision whether or not to opt your child out of participation in this study will not affect your current or future relations with Sam Houston State University, Lone Star College, or your child’s high school. If your child participates, you are still free to withdraw at any time without affecting those relationships.

**Who can I contact if I have questions about this study?**

- **The research team:**  
 If you have any questions, comments or concerns about the research, you can talk to the one of the researchers.

Please contact:

**David Moss**, Assistant Professor and Principal Investigator  
 Department of Environmental and Geosciences  
 Box 2148, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX 77341  
**Phone:** (936) 294-1593 **E-mail:** dxm112@shsu.edu.

Co-PI Ross Guida Department of Environmental and Geosciences Sam Houston State University Huntsville, TX 77341 Phone: (936) 294-1233 E-mail: ross.guida@shsu.edu	Renjie Zhou Department of Environmental and Geosciences Sam Houston State University Huntsville, TX 77341 Phone: (936) 294-1450 E-mail: rxz013@shsu.edu	Joseph Hill Department of Environmental and Geosciences Sam Houston State University Huntsville, TX 77341 Phone: (936) 294-1560 E-mail: geojoe@shsu.edu
Co-PI Bryn Benford Lone Star College – University Park Geology Dept 20515 TX-249 S, Houston, TX 77070 Phone: (281) 655-3785 E-mail: Bryn.A.Benford@lonestar.edu	Co-PI Christa Spears Lone Star College – University Park Geology Dept 20515 TX-249 S, Houston, TX 77070 Phone: (281) 290-3747 E-mail: Christa.Spears@lonestar.edu	Brian Cooper Department of Environmental and Geosciences Sam Houston State University Huntsville, TX 77341 Phone: (936)-294-1566 E-mail: bjcooper@shsu.edu

**SHSU Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP):**

If you have questions about your child's rights while taking part in this study, or you have concerns or suggestions and you want to talk to someone other than the researchers about the study, please call Sharla Miles, Research Compliance Administrator at (936) 294-4875 or write to:

Office of Research and Sponsored Programs  
Institutional Review Board  
ATTN: Sharla Miles, CIP  
ORSP-SHSU Box 2448  
Huntsville, TX 77341-2448

## DOCUMENTATION OF CONSENT

If you decide to allow your child to participate, you will not need to do anything, and you still have the right to withdraw your child at any time. If you do not opt out, your child will be given both a pre- and post-survey.

If you decide you do not allow your child to participate, you will need to sign this form and have your child return it to the teacher or the GET Texas research team before the event. We will keep a record of this, and you may keep a copy for your records as well.

I have read this form and decided that my child will NOT participate in the project described above. Note: If this is the case, please sign below and return the form with your child before the event.

## SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Child

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Parent or Legal Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## SIGNATURE OF PERSON OBTAINING CONSENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Person Obtaining Consent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Number

