



April 11, 2010

Dear Parent:

It is our pleasure to inform you that your child has been chosen to participate in an environmental and natural resources education program entitled “Resources for an Inclusive Future” to be held on the campus of Mississippi State University on May 11-14, 2010. Based on your child’s academic success and reputation as a young leader in the community, the faculty at Columbus, Lauderdale, Starkville, or West Point High School has selected your child as an exceptional candidate for this unique experience.

Resources for an Inclusive Future (RIF) is a collaborative effort of four academic institutions (Yale University, Mississippi State University, Tuskegee University, and Elizabeth City State University). The program is also sponsored in part by the International Paper Company, National Parks Service, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. RIF strives to introduce burgeoning young scholars to fields in the environment and natural resources. With emphasis on students from minority backgrounds, RIF focuses on the need for diversity of thought, religion, race, gender, and ethnic origin in environmental and natural resources careers.

Your child will have hands-on interaction with current students, alumni, faculty, and staff from each of the involved entities. Presenters will be showcasing different opportunities for success and sharing their personal experiences in the environmental and natural resources fields.

We sincerely hope you will allow your child to participate in this special program. Enclosed in this packet, you will find 1) a pamphlet describing RIF, 2) a program agenda that will describe what your child will be doing during the 3-day program, 3) items your child would need to bring if attending, 4) a parental/guardian release form, 5) a personal and medical information form, 6) a publicity form for releases of pictures of your child, and 7) a code of conduct form that needs to be signed by both the student and parent or guardian. For your child to be able to participate in the program, items 4 through 7 must be completed and returned to your child’s school counselor no later than April 23, 2010.

If you have any questions about your child’s participation in the program, please do not hesitate to contact either of us below by phone or by email if you have any questions whatsoever.

Sincerely,

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Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies  
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# PARTNERS

A collaborative effort involving

- Mississippi State University  
College of Forest Resources
- Elizabeth City State University
- Tuskegee University
- Yale University School of Forestry and  
Environmental Studies

Each of these institutions has a vested interest in ensuring that the next generation of environmental leaders is ready for the ensuing challenges that await them and is representative of the diverse cultures of the United States.

# SPONSORS

International Paper Company

National Park Service

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY | MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY | TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY  
YALE UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF FORESTRY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

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# RESOURCES for an INCLUSIVE FUTURE



Elizabeth City State University

Mississippi State University  
College of Forest Resources

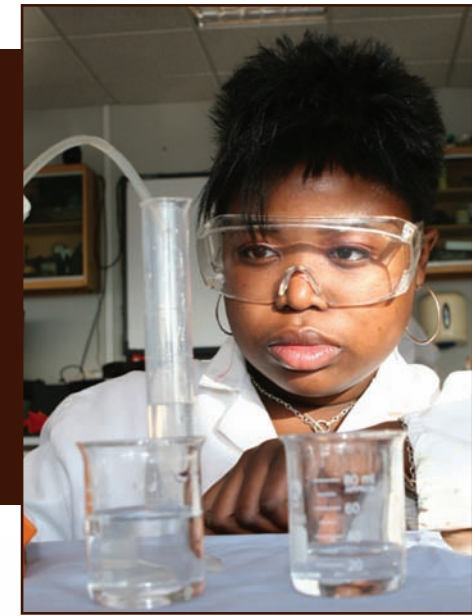
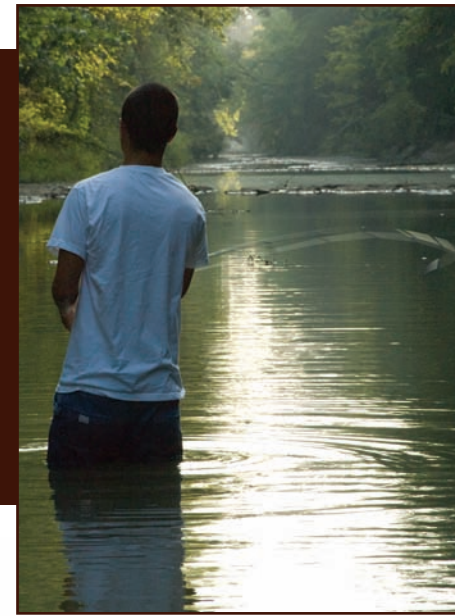
Tuskegee University

Yale University  
School of Forestry and Environmental Studies

# HISTORY

Resources for an Inclusive Future began in the spring of 2006 as a conversation between Yale University and Mississippi State University about the lack of diversity within fields related to environmental sciences. From those conversations it was decided that a collaborative effort was needed to help expose under-represented high school students to career opportunities in natural resources and the environment, and the many degree programs available at colleges and universities to help them make those careers a reality. Since then, Resources for an Inclusive Future has grown to include Tuskegee University in Alabama and Elizabeth City State University in North Carolina. The program is also supported by the International Paper Company, the National Parks Service, and the United States Fish & Wildlife Service.

The program strives to introduce burgeoning young scholars to fields in the environmental sciences and natural resources. The program emphasizes recruiting students from minority backgrounds and the need for diversity of thought, religion, race, gender, and ethnic origin in environmental and natural resources careers and future decisions about the wise management of our natural resources.



# MISSION

The purpose of the program is to inform high school students from underrepresented backgrounds about the many different career opportunities available within the arenas of natural resource/environmental management and science.

Additionally, it is the hope and goal to encourage students to attend a college or university in pursuit of a degree of some kind, whether that be art, history or natural resource science.

# BENEFITS

- An introduction to environmental and natural resource careers
- Introduction to an academic environment at a university
- Networking with leading environmental and natural resource management institutions
- Interfacing with college students and alumni from diverse backgrounds
- Introduction to the suite of concepts involved in natural resource & environmental management
- Offering students a chance to interface with leaders in the environmental/natural resource movement.

## RESOURCES FOR AN INCLUSIVE FUTURE DAILY AGENDA ~ WHAT STUDENTS WILL BE DOING AT THE PROGRAM

### Day 1 (May 11<sup>th</sup>)

- Students arrive and Registration (5-9pm)\*

\*The night prior, campers arrive at dorm in the evening, get checked in, and settled. RIF dorm counselors tell campers of appropriate attire to wear for activities the next day.

### Day 2 (May 12<sup>th</sup>)

**7:30-9:00am**

- Any other student check-in (Dorm) and breakfast (Perry Cafeteria)

**9:15-10:15am**

- Camp opening/orientation and welcome (Tully Auditorium)

**10:15-11:15am**

- “A Day in the Life of a College Student” Presentation and skit (Tully Auditorium)

**11:30am-12:30pm**

- Lunch (Perry Cafeteria)

**1:00-5:00pm**

- **Global Positioning System/Geographic Information System:** Introduction to GPS and GIS and its importance to natural resources followed by outdoor type of activity where campers save point counts on GPS units and then come back to GIS lab to map them out or Scavenger Hunt activity (Michele Lewis, Yale University)

\* This activity can be done indoors

- **Fisheries Management:** A discussion of fisheries management and demonstration of fish sampling, possibly electrofishing (Chadwick Lake; Jason Olive MDWFP and Dr. Hunt)

\* Back up indoor activity: Tour of laboratories in Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture (Thompson Hall)

- **Invertebrate Ecology or Pond Ecology and Water Quality Sampling:** An introduction to the ecology of small bodies of water and invertebrates with demonstration of invertebrate sampling. Additional discussion of water quality and methods used to measure it (Pond or body of water close to campus; Dr. Kroger’s students)

\* Back up indoor activity: Introduction to Human Dimensions and Survey Methods (Forest Products Bldg. 1; Vanessa Oquendo)

**5:15-6:00pm**

- Back to dorm to shower

**6:15-7:15pm**

- Dinner (Perry Cafeteria)

**7:30-8:00pm**

- RIF staff's "Keys to Success" (Dorm)

**8:00-9:30pm**

- Free Time and Games at Dorm; RIF dorm counselors tell campers of appropriate attire to wear for activities the next day

**10:00pm**

- Lights Out

Day 3 (May 13<sup>th</sup>)

**6:30-7:00am**

- Campers wake up and RIF dorm counselors remind campers of attire for the day

**7:15-8:15am**

- Breakfast (Perry Cafeteria)

**8:45am-11:15am**

- **Forestry:** An introduction to practices of forestry and a demonstration of how professionals manage the forest and the tools they use (Noxubee Refuge; Branden Tolver, Master's Forestry Student MSU)

\* Back up indoor activity: Refuge Nature Center tour

- **Wildlife Photography:** An introduction to wildlife photography and demonstration.

\* This can be an indoor activity (Noxubee Refuge; Jolie Goldenetz-Dollar, Ph.D candidate in wildlife MSU)

- **Compass Orienteering:** An introduction to the use of compasses and transecting of a course (Noxubee Refuge; Michele Lewis, Yale University)

\* Back up indoor activity: Tour of Refuge Environmental Center

**11:30am-12:30pm**

- Lunch (Catered by some sandwich place: box lunches that are picked up and brought to refuge)

**12:45pm-5:00pm**

- **Herpetology:** An introduction to reptiles and amphibians, their natural history, and ecology. Demonstration of herp sampling (Noxubee Refuge; Leader TBA)

\* Back up indoor activity: herp activity in Refuge Environmental Center

- **Ornithology:** An introduction to birds, their natural history, and ecology. Demonstration of bird mist-netting. (Noxubee Refuge; Heidi Puckett, Ph.D in wildlife candidate MSU)

\* Back up indoor activity: bird activity in Refuge Environmental Center

• **Deer Management:** An introduction to white-tailed deer, natural history, ecology and importance. Tour of deer pens possible (Noxubee Refuge; Leader TBA)

\* Back up indoor activity: mammal activity in Refuge Environmental Center

• **Environmental Justice:** An introduction to policy and enforcement of laws related to the equal and fair access to a healthy environment by society (Derrick Dease iPaper)

\* This can be an indoor activity

**5:30-6:15pm**

• Back to dorm to shower

**6:30-7:30pm**

• Dinner (Perry Cafeteria)

**7:45-9:30pm**

• Recreation time (Sanderson Center) → gym with climbing wall, basketball courts, racquetball courts, swimming pool, etc. Campers will not be allowed in weight or conditioning rooms.

**9:45-11:00pm**

• Back to dorm; RIF counselors tell campers of activities for last day; free time for campers

**11:30pm**

• Lights out

\* Since this would be the last night of the camp, it can be at the discretion of RIF counselors at the dorm to determine if campers can stay up til midnight

Day 4 (May 14<sup>th</sup>)

**7:00-7:30am**

• Campers wake up and RIF dorm counselors remind campers of attire for the day

**7:45-8:45am**

• Breakfast (Perry Cafeteria)

**9:00-11:15am**

• **Veterinary Medicine/Forensics:** Short tour of vet school; introduction to vet medicine; demonstration of wildlife forensics or demonstration of animal anesthetics (MSU Vet School; Dr. Memili or Kamila Grant)

• **Forest Products:** An introduction to valuable products produced from forests. Tour of Forest Products labs/complex and various demonstrations (Forest Products Complex; Jarvaris Platt)

**11:30am-12:30pm**

• Keynote Speaker TBA and lunch

**12:30pm-2:30pm**

- Presentation of careers related to natural resources
- Presentation of going to college at MSU, Yale, Tuskegee or other school
- Camp evaluation and certificate presentation; camp closing

**2:30-3:00pm**

- Campers back to dorm to pack, check out, and depart from MSU

***RIF Camp Concludes***



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YALE UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF FORESTRY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES



# What to bring to the Resources for an Inclusive Future Program

Please note: RIF Program participants should dress modestly! They will need enough clothing to change each evening for their evening activities or heading home (shorts or jeans, tops, etc).

## Clothing and shoes should include:

- Athletic shoes with closed toes and heels for everyday
- Old pair of athletic shoes or boots with closed toes and heels for getting wet and muddy
- Long pair of lightweight pants that can be pulled on over shorts for field sampling
- Casual clothing of your choice—shorts, jeans, modest tops
- One long sleeved shirt
- Pajamas
- Flip flops or water shoes for shower use
- Bath towel

## Other items to bring:

- Soap, deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo
- Wash cloths and towels
- Sleeping bag or sheets and blanket
- Pillow and pillow case
- Insect repellent and sunscreen
- Flash light
- Personal snacks for your room
- Hairbrush/comb
- Watch (waterproof would be good)
- Spending money for special purchases
- Notebook and pencil or pen
- Bag for your dirty clothes
- Prescription or over the counter medications you are taking
- Poncho or rain jacket
- Plenty of enthusiasm and smiles!

Might want to bring: Pair of binoculars, camera, sunglasses, hat or cap.

## **RESOURCES FOR AN INCLUSIVE FUTURE PARENTAL RELEASE FORM**

I certify that my child, \_\_\_\_\_, who is enrolled with this agreement, is in excellent health and may participate in physical activities associated with the **Resources for an Inclusive Future Program**. I agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Mississippi State University officers, servants, agents and/or employees, contractors and insurers from any and all claims for injuries sustained by my child during his/her participation in the program.

Permission is hereby granted to the Resources for an Inclusive Future Program for my child to travel on field trips associated with the **Resources for an Inclusive Future Program**

I understand and acknowledge that **Resources for an Inclusive Future Program** does not offer any medical insurance to protect against injuries; makes no claims to do so and has no responsibility for any medical expense incurred. I understand that each participant must assume the risk and any related financial responsibility that could result from participation in any of these activities. I agree to assume such risk and such financial responsibility.

Permission is granted in the agreement for my child to receive emergency medical treatment, if needed, and I certify there are no limits to my child's participation in the **Resource for an Inclusive Future Program** activities except as stated in writing and included with Personal and Medical Information Sheet.

Parent/Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## RESOURCES FOR AN INCLUSIVE FUTURE PROGRAM PERSONAL & MEDICAL INFORMATION SHEET

Please answer all of the following questions. This form must be completed and returned with the parental release form, publicity release form, and student code of conduct form. Registration will not be considered complete until we receive all required forms. The information provided below will be kept confidential and will not be shared with anyone except medical personnel in case of an emergency.

Name of Participant	Area Code    Telephone Number
Participant's Address	City, State and Zip Code
Health Insurance Provider	Policy #
Name of Policyholder	Relationship to Participant
Insurance Provider Claim Address	Insurance Provider Phone #

Student's Age \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/19\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt Size: S M L XL XXL

1. Please list below any allergic reactions the participant may have to bee stings, medicine, etc...  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Does the participant have any physical disabilities that require special attention? Please explain below.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Is the participant diabetic? \_\_\_\_\_ Wear contacts? \_\_\_\_\_ Have asthma? \_\_\_\_\_  
Does the participant have convulsions? \_\_\_\_\_ Fainting Spells? \_\_\_\_\_ Bleeding disorders? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Does participant have other disorders which might require medical assistance? Please explain below  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Please list below any medicines and/or vitamins the participant is currently taking.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. List two people who can be notified in case of an emergency:  

<u>Name and relationship to participant</u>	<u>Day phone</u>	<u>Night phone</u>
7. Name and phone number of personal physician: \_\_\_\_\_
7. List last date participant had required immunization:    Tetanus \_\_\_\_\_    Diphtheria \_\_\_\_\_    Polio \_\_\_\_\_  

Has had vaccination or disease:	Mumps _____	German Rubella _____	Red Rubella _____
	Pertussis _____	Measles _____	Chicken Pox _____
	Tetanus Shot _____		
8. Does the Participant have any dietary restrictions? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what are they?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Is there any other information we need to know about Participant? If so, what is it?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **RESOURCES FOR AN INCLUSIVE FUTURE PUBLICITY RELEASE FORM**

Photos and names of program participants may be mailed to local hometown newspapers for press releases on the program, and used for future promotional materials associated with Resources for an Inclusive Future. Please indicate below whether you want or don't want pictures of your child used for these purposes.

**Name of Participant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Newspaper Articles:**

- YES, I agree to have the participant's picture and name published in our local newspaper. (If Yes, please complete below information box)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of parent or guardian**

- NO, I do NOT want the above participant's picture and name published in our local newspaper.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of parent or guardian**

**Name of Parents or Guardians:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hometown:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Local Newspaper:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Resources for an Inclusive Future Promotional Materials:**

- YES, I agree to have the above participant's picture and name appear in future promotional literature about the Resources for an Inclusive Future Program**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of parent or guardian**

- NO, I do NOT agree to have the participant's picture and name appear in future promotional literature about the Resources for an Inclusive Future Program**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of parent or guardian**

## RESOURCES FOR AN INCLUSIVE FUTURE PROGRAM CODES OF CONDUCT

Yale University, Mississippi State University, Tuskegee University, and Elizabeth City State University have partnered to bring a quality learning experience to program participants. To accomplish this goal, positive behavior is required for all participating in the program. This behavior should reflect trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, and caring. Program participants are expected to fully participate and behave appropriately during each event.

- I will participate in and be on time to all sessions and activities, unless excused by a staff member.
- I understand that I will be asked to answer questions approved by the school districts superintendent about my career goals and plans after high school, and the quality of the Resources for an Inclusive Future Program and its instructors, and that this informational will remain confidential.
- Resources for an Inclusive Future Program participants are not allowed to have personal vehicles on campus.
- No firearms, ammunition, weapons of any sort or fireworks may be brought to the program.
- Theft, vandalism, and the use illegal drugs, alcohol, and similar offenses are strictly prohibited. Those engaged in these activities will be reported to the proper authorities and parents will be contacted immediately. When acts of vandalism occur, repair costs will be billed to the responsible party.
- Smoking or other tobacco use is not permitted.
- I will conduct myself in a respectful and courteous manner at all times, and I understand that all profanity, horseplay, fighting, and inappropriate acts are prohibited. Derogatory remarks about any participant, his/her family, race, religion, or background will not be tolerated.
- I understand that no one is allowed outside of sleeping quarters after 10:30 p.m., and that all lights must be out by 11:00 p.m. and that there will be a bed check every night by a counselor. I understand that there must be quiet time between midnight and 5:30 a.m.
- RIF Program participants are not permitted in the housing areas of the opposite sex (bathrooms and rooms) and will be sent home for inappropriate sexual behavior.
- RIF Program participants must be accompanied by a counselor if leaving designated areas on campus
- The use of cell phones will be limited to the dormitory. If cell phones are taken on field trips, the counselors will take them and return them to the participant at the end of the day. This will be strictly enforced.
- I understand that other than a clock/radio and camera, no electronic equipment (including TVs, portable radio/CD/MP3 players, or computer games) will be allowed.
- Pets are prohibited.
- No student will be allowed to wear overly provocative or offensive clothing.
- Any participant who does not follow these rules will be sent home immediately at parents expense.

I have read, understand and agree to abide by these codes of conduct:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I have read the codes of conduct and expect my child to abide by them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date