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Science trip set for summer

Thomas More hosts program

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Thomas More College is accepting applications from high school students for an intensive week-long Summer Science Institute.

The 15 chosen will study the ecology of Twelve Mile Creek, the Licking River and the Ohio River during the days at the Center for Ohio River Research & Education's biology field station. At night, the students will study astronomy at Thomas More's Bank of Kentucky Observatory.

Students will stay overnight on the college's campus.

"Most of this research parallels what my college students do for their summer research projects for companies such as Duke Energy, the Sanitation District and the Hamilton County Park District," said Christopher Lorentz, the biology professor who heads the program.

"Having taught several students who are now science teachers and consulting with them and other teachers, we've constructed a curriculum that is appropriate yet challenging for high school students," said Lorentz.

Lorentz said applicants should have at least a 3.0 GPA, have taken a variety of science courses and have an interest in various scientific fields.

This is the third year for the program.

The program focuses on the three Rs: rigor, relevance and relationships, according to Lorentz.

"The students are learning complex topics that are relevant to their lives and conducive to forming relationships to members within their community and to the community itself," he said.

Lorentz said there are a number of reasons why Thomas More offers this program to high school students.

"First and foremost, I enjoy teaching students of all ages about our local ecosystems, particularly the aquatic ones, like the Ohio River," said Lorentz who has been studying the river since joining Thomas More in 1994.

"Arguably, this is our area's greatest natural resource, and one that is often undervalued, misunderstood or ignored altogether by many who have grown up in this area," he added.

The deadline for application is May 25.

Applications can be found on the school's Web site: www.thomasmore.edu. The cost is \$500.

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