

BSCS Science Institutes

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



What content will the course(s) cover?

Scientific Inquiry Series- The inquiry courses will focus on inquiry both as content as well as pedagogy. We will focus on content from various disciplines, including Biology, Physics, Chemistry, and Earth/Space to both push participants' subject matter knowledge, as well as to experience inquiry as content rich learning. The content of the inquiry courses will focus on developing participants' understandings and abilities of scientific inquiry, as a learner and as a teacher. Additionally, there are specific experiences designed to engage the participants as adult learners to deepen their content understanding while exploring how to use inquiry-based learning in the K-12 classroom. Content will be around inquiry, ecosystems and human environmental impact, Earth-Sun-Moon systems, chemical interactions, and a physics example. The elementary and secondary versions will provide examples of grade-band level appropriate activities to illustrate how inquiry could be integrated into the classroom. Some common misconceptions about inquiry will be addressed including that inquiry takes too much time, that it is only for advanced learners, that it is void of science subject matter, and that it does not promote higher student achievement. We will deeply delve into scientific explanations and testable questions as we consider the essential features of scientific inquiry in the classroom.

What are the institute's dates?

	Onsite experience in Colorado Springs	Moderated PLC (Professional Learning Community)
Scientific Inquiry in the Secondary Classroom	July 13-17, 2009	June 2009 - May 2010
Scientific Inquiry in the Elementary Classroom	July 13-17, 2009	June 2009 - May 2010

What is the content of the online portion?

The online portion of the institutes will allow teachers to reflect on how they are integrating the content and approaches discussed during the course back in the district and will provide a learning community to review student work, practices, and interactions back in the district.

Tuition Costs

	Tuition Cost	Team of 3 - 4	Team of 5 +
Scientific Inquiry Series	\$1,500	\$1,250	\$1,100



What does the registration fee include?

- access to the online PD portal
- week-long summer experience in Colorado Springs
- 2 dinners, lunch each day
- highly-qualified instructors
- supplies and resources as outlined in each institute description

What does the registration fee not include?

- transportation to/from Colorado Springs
- housing (breakfast is provided for hotel guests)
- dinner (other than the two evenings listed above)
- ground transportation to/from the airport

Is BSCS able to obtain fund grants for teachers to attend the Science Institutes?

BSCS would be happy to work with you to secure funding. In some areas, local corporations are willing to provide sponsorships for participants. If you could help identify a local business or two who you think has an interest in supporting science education in your community, we would be happy to draft a letter and package to send to them requesting support. Additionally, you may want to check with your district science supervisor to see if there are Title 1 funds or other district resources available.

Hotels

The main hotel for the Science Institutes is the Hyatt Summerfield Suite). The negotiated rate for a Deluxe One Bedroom \$85/night. www.hyattsummerfieldcoloradosprings.com. The hotel is located at 5805 Delmonico Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80909.

Ground Transportation

BSCS will provide a morning and afternoon shuttle service between the Bradford and meeting location; however you will be responsible for your own transportation to and from the airport and local restaurants. BSCS is located at 5415 Mark Dabbling Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO 80918, which is less than ½ a mile from the Bradford.

Meals

A continental breakfast will be served each morning at the Bradford. Your lunch, beverages and snacks, as well as two dinners will be provided on campus. Dinner other nights is "on your own."

Schedule

We will be working full days while together in Colorado Springs. A formal agenda will be distributed during the first day, and posted on the online forum. We will begin each day at 8:00 a.m. and have structured activities until 5:00 p.m. each day. On two of the evenings we will have learning dinners and events. The remaining evenings will be for more informal or social events with the group, or you may elect to go off on your own.



Course Credit

College graduate credit is offered through Colorado State University. You can earn up to 4 graduate credits for the Inquiry Institutes, 3 graduate credits for Literacy and Science, and 3 graduate credits for Content Deepening Institutes. The 2008 cost was \$72.00 per credit. Enrollment forms will be made available at the Institute. The cost of credit is not included in the tuition, is the responsibility of the participant, and must be paid in full during the Institute. Checks should be made out to Colorado State University. The University also accepts payment via credit card. If you have coordinated with your school district to receive CEU's for the Institute, please bring your paperwork with you and we will be happy to provide the documentation necessary to complete your forms. It is the participants' responsibility to coordinate and arrange any CEU credits with their district.



Do I have to attend the entire time?

Attendance is required during all of the scheduled times during the week in Colorado Springs, unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructors. We expect that you will attend and actively participate in all sessions, critically read and reflect on all reading assignments, demonstrate your reflection through your writings and discussions, collaborate with your colleagues, be prompt and professional with all assignments, put forth more than the minimal effort when completing assignments, ask for help when needed, and offer help to others when you can.

How do I register?

www.bscs.org/professionaldevelopment/pdservices/scienceinstitutes

I still have questions, who do I contact?

Course questions, contact Dr. Sam Spiegel at sspiegel@bscs.org.

Logistical questions, contact Aleigh Raffelson at araffelson@bscs.org or 719.219.4119.



www.bscs.org