

Memorandum of Understanding

Between the Ware County School District and the Okefenokee Swamp Park, Inc. Waycross, Georgia

1. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum of understanding (MOU) is to implement a cooperative effort between the WARE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, and the OKEFENOKEE SWAMP PARK, Inc., Waycross, Georgia. The partnership will be directed toward meeting the educational and research objectives as established by this limited public/ private MOU.

2. OBJECTIVES:

The primary objective is to support the academic success of students and to develop appreciation for the very unique Okefenokee Swamp ecosystem. This cooperative agreement is also established to expand the capacity of the park, in order to reach beyond the boundaries of Waycross/Ware County, via broadband access, and provide educational content and programming to students throughout Georgia, and throughout the world.

3. IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT:

A. The Okefenokee Swamp Park, Waycross, Georgia agrees to:

1. Provide access to the Land of the Trembling Earth via the Okefenokee Swamp Park, Inc. for the purpose to record or live stream events, video conferences conducted by the Okefenokee Swamp Park, Inc. in conjunction with the Ware County School District. This would include the use of all facilities and activities, except for private events. Reservations by users would have to be made.
2. Provide broadband connectivity to offer distance learning programs for pre K – adult thru video conferencing, webinars, and streamed content. Workshops can be conducted via high definition video conferencing and are tailored to specific classroom topics and curriculum for pre K-12 groups based on Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS). For pre K-5, Park staff will collaborate with Ware County School District staff and other partners, to integrate science, social studies, language arts, and other disciplines to create a dynamic, interactive virtual classroom for a virtual fieldtrip experience. Middle School/high school programs can be lab and discussion-based. Programs will compliment CCGPS standards in language arts, social studies, science, math, and other areas.
3. Provide use of the current 90 ft. observation tower and all supporting installations (tower currently does not have power) depending upon availability.
4. Provide electrical current to operate equipment in agreed upon areas.

5. Provide a limited number of free general admissions to students, teachers, and project leaders directly involved with the daily webinars, recorded or live streamed events, and video conferences to the Ware County School District.
6. Provide safe and secure storage for all technology equipment.
7. Provide course content, materials, webinars, recorded or live streamed events, and video conference to Ware County School District. Provide limited number of tuition-free annual scholarships to the 10 hour "Okefenokeeology class" for Ware County BOE staff and teachers.
8. Provide boat guides, wildlife staff, and RV volunteers, depending on availability, for the purpose to assist with the Ware County School District's project leader, who is hosting/conducting the webinars, recorded or live streamed events and video conferences.
9. Provide a link on the website www.okeswamp.com to promote and market upcoming webinars, recorded or live-streamed events and video conferences planned and conducted.
10. Agrees to participate in completing applications and seeking grant funding.

All of the above commitments are provisional upon obtaining full funding through outside grants and other sources. The project will not encumber the current or future budgets of the Okefenokee Swamp Park, Inc. until external streams of income are confirmed.

B. The Ware County School District agrees to:

1. Assist in securing initial funding to purchase equipment through corporate/private sponsorships.
2. Assist with the installation of wireless applications to enable high definition video conferencing at the Okefenokee Swamp Park, Inc.
3. Provide assistance to develop, record and live stream content out of the Okefenokee Swamp Park, Inc. via the Swamp Park's internet capabilities.
4. Work collaboratively with the Okefenokee Swamp Park, Inc. experts to conduct studies and collect data for authentic, comprehensive, environmental research applications/projects.
5. Allow Ware County students within their aligned pathways to create business, marketing, and other entrepreneurial plans/applications. A fee structure including usage and program fees will be developed for on-site event production as part of the business plan development.
6. Provide Career and Technical Student Organizations volunteer hours to support Swamp Park activities.
7. Agrees to participate in completing and seeking grant applications.

4. LIABILITY:

Parties shall each be responsible for their liability and neither party shall act as an agent for the other for any purposes regarding the MOU. None of the Parties shall be responsible for liability of the other parties as a result of acts of omissions in connection with the performance of the Memorandum of Understanding. The Ware County School District and the Okefenokee Swamp Park, Inc. must maintain a present documentation of all required professional insurance to each other.

5. IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Ware County School District and the Okefenokee Swamp Park, Inc. will be responsible for the implementation of the MOU within their respective organizations. Direct communication from both parties will be an important tool in managing partnership performance. Training sessions and the development of intellectual property will be equally shared by both parties.

6. PROJECT GOALS:

- A. To host webinars (both live and streamed) and create streamed workshops and lectures for teacher seeking demos and professional development (also available via video-conferencing). Workshops are also ideal for anyone interested in learning about the Swamp Park.
- B. To offer a comprehensive training course for teachers of elementary, middle, and high schools on animals found in the Okefenokee Swamp, their habitat, conservation, and protection. The training course will be divided into two parts: orientation and virtual/actual classes. Teachers will learn swamp ecology and a general overview of Swamp biology research techniques. Supplementary curriculum materials and in-class activities will be reviewed and resources supporting continuing education will be presented. The course is described below:
The initial four-hour training course will cover: swamp ecology, field research and its importance, conservation/environmental threats and issues, supplementary curricula and resources, and questions and answers. The purpose of this course is to familiarize students and teachers so they are more aware, not only of swamp ecology, but of serious problems facing this pristine ecosystem and the need for changing our habits toward a sustainable future.
- C. Provide a comprehensive study guide and materials list for most programs
- D. The Okefenokee Swamp Park, Inc. and Ware County Schools will work collaboratively to develop a series of virtual presentations on swamp animals and conservation for grades Pre K- 16. These presentations are intended to familiarize students with swamp animals and their habitat. Some topics focused on by these presentations will be: pollution, storm water run-off, and harassment. These presentations will be designed to help students understand that local action can contribute to global change. These presentations may also integrate into existing curriculum as a general introduction to "Okefenokeeology".
- E. A tagline will be developed for the beginning of every virtual presentation, identifying the Okefenokee Swamp Park, Inc. and the Ware County School District. At the end of each

presentation, a standard closing will invite the internet audience to come to Waycross and visit the Okefenokee Swamp Park, Inc. for a more hands-on experience.

7. SUBCONTRACTING

Parties may not subcontract any portion of the MOU without obtaining prior written approval of the remaining parties.

8. AMENDMENTS

The agreement will be reviewed by both parties annually and written suggestions as to recommended changes, clarifications, deletions or additions will be mutually agreed upon. The MOU will renew annually automatically, unless modified or amended upon written agreement from the Ware County School District and The Okefenokee Swamp Park, Inc.

9. DURATION

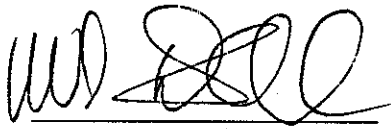
This MOU shall be in force upon the signatures of all four positions listed in Section 11 and shall remain in force until terminated by either or both parties, as set forth below.

10. TERMINATION

If either of the Parties to this MOU are dissatisfied with the performance of any of the obligations imposed on the other Party under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding, the dissatisfied Party shall give written notice to the non-performing Party of the duties which the dissatisfied Party believes have not been performed. The MOU may be terminated by mutual agreement of the Ware County School District and the Okefenokee Swamp Park, Inc. or by either party upon a 30 day written notice to the other, and or within legal guidelines for any public funding received by mutual agreement of both parties.

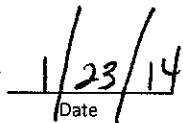
11. SIGNATURES

In WITNESS WHEREOF, duly authorized representatives of the Parties have executed this MOU effective as of the date first written above,




Signature

Mr. Wilton Deloach
Chairman, Ware County BOE

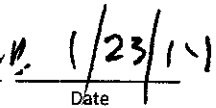


Date



Signature

S. William Clark III M.D.
Chairman, Okefenokee Swamp Park, Inc.

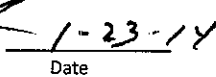


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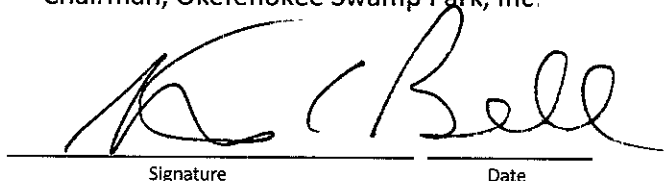


Signature

Mr. Mark E. Mooneyhan
Superintendent, Ware County Schools



Date



Signature

Mr. Martin Bell
Executive Director, Okefenokee Swamp Park, Inc.

Date