

# BioQuest!



Sea Turtle Ecology Course participants explored the inland rainforest as well as the Caribbean coast in Costa Rica.

April 5, 2024

**Dear PEAK Students, Parents, and Teachers,**

I hope everyone had a wonderful spring break! I look forward to seeing you all next week! This month, we will meet 6 to 8 PM Tuesday evenings at Helena College room 120 unless otherwise publicized. Eighth graders will meet at CR Anderson from 11:52 to 12:58 PM on Wednesday.

Next week, we will develop our plans for independent research into various species—wolves, Black Swifts, jellyfish, mountain lions, poison dart frogs, and of course, the leatherback sea turtles. Students who went to Costa Rica should continue researching some of the species we encountered there.

I hope some students will collaborate on a presentation about the leatherback sea turtles so we can prepare an in-depth program about them for the Last Chance Audubon meeting on May 14.

**In planning your independent study project, please address these three areas:**

1. The five areas of living things that have always been a part of our PEAK curriculum:

Migration and movement

Habitat

Reproduction and care of offspring

Diet

Natural History

2. Beyond this, your research for the BioQuest unit should also investigate and describe how biologists, ecologists, and/or environmental educators (like Dayana and Olman in Costa Rica) research this species and what they are doing to raise awareness and protect it.

3. The creative part: Design a hypothetical research and protection project that you would undertake if you were in charge of a fully-funded, long-term project focused on this creature.

On April 9, we will also spend some time sketching logo ideas for the upcoming PEAK Leadership Conference. The theme is Pursuing your Passions: A PEAK into the Future

**Important note to students:**

We're looking for submissions for the T-shirt logo design for this year's PEAK Leadership Conference. Students, if you'd like to submit an entry: please create your design in one color, on a single sheet of paper (portrait orientation). Please bring your logo designs to your PEAK this week. Here are the details:

Pursuing your Passions: A PEAK into the Future  
 PEAK Leadership Conference 2024  
 (optional: 24<sup>th</sup> Annual)

<b>BioQuest UNIT ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>RESEARCH— I CAN STATEMENTS</b>
Meet with biology researchers and wildlife managers.	I can listen actively, take effective notes, ask deep questions, and utilize expert information at a professional level in my own work.
Study selected fauna in Montana, Costa Rica, and elsewhere.	I can recognize, understand, and use the 5 Areas system autonomously.
Conduct research or learn about specific studies based on the scientific method. Independent study of specific species or ecosystems.	I can recognize, understand, and use the scientific method autonomously.
Conduct research into the human dimensions of the species chosen for research. Investigate the species role in a larger ecosystem.	I can investigate and describe the ecological significance of a species, as well as the human dimensions that influence it.
Interview research scientists.	I can autonomously generate professional-level interview questions tailored specifically to the interviewee.