



Success Story:

Fostering Outdoor Observation Skills

PEI is using a new delivery format for professional learning this year. Each FieldSTEM workshop begins with a 2-hour virtual, state-wide convening followed by asynchronous assignments, and ending with a 2-hour virtual regional session. This format allows us to reach a large state-wide audience while also creating an opportunity for coordinators to address the specific needs of the educators in their regions. On October 26, FieldSTEM Coordinators Julie Tennis, Karen Lippy and Lara Tukarski introduced the concepts presented in the Fostering Outdoor Observation Skills (FOOS) guide to 71 educators, representing 33 districts from Ocean Beach to Pullman. For the next two weeks, teachers worked on projects ranging from a “hike through the guide” to the development of a “Wanted Poster” for a critter or plant they observed in their yards during a sit spot activity.

HI, I'M A NEOTAMIAS TOWNSENDII!
MY FRIENDS CALL ME A TOWNSEND'S CHIPMUNK.

SHHH...THEY SAY I'M WANTED FOR
BEING THE ONLY CHIPMUNK SPECIES REGULARLY FOUND
WEST OF THE CASCADES!



Spotted by Ailsa
Wallerich-Neils

on 11/7/21
@ 2:57pm
Tacoma, WA



52°F
Partly cloudy, no wind
Snake Lake Trail

I'm about 10 inches long and full grown. I have friends and family who range from 9-14".

You can tell our family because of our distinct striped faces, and stripes on our bodies. We have alternating dark (5) and light (4) stripes down our body and tail.

These stripes help us blend in the trees and on the ground.

Here are some of my favorite foods!
I'm an omnivore, and like myself, like my food to be in covered areas.



Fungi



Thimble Berries



Acorns



Darkling beetles

Here are tracks a family member left behind in OR



This mixture of trees is the BEST!
I can hide from predators like owls, foxes, skunks, and snakes in these hardwood forests.
Then we make burrows underground.



Think you hear us? One of our noises is a high-pitched tweet that almost sounds like birds chirping!



Success Story Cont'd:

On November 9, the FieldSTEM Coordinators formed three PEI teams and followed up with region-specific, place-based teaching on the FOOS Guide to these same teachers in a smaller virtual setting. Teachers who attended both sessions and completed their asynchronous work received 6 STEM Clock Hours. According to evaluations, teachers appreciated the opportunity to engage with the materials during the asynchronous time and benefited from reflecting together with their job-alike colleagues during the virtual sessions. One teacher shared, "This experience was the perfect mix of hands-on, discussion and reflection. I feel as if I could go into the classroom right now and implement with no problem."

