

Outreach Projects that Broaden the Impact of our FIBR Project

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Throughout our FIBR project we have attempted to broaden the impact of our research in various ways. Since we are studying a colorful microbial community in Yellowstone National Park we have had the opportunity to address one of the most frequently asked questions of the park's ~3 million annual visitors—what causes the colors around the hot springs? We and non-FIBR colleagues have partnered with the Yellowstone Division of Interpretation to: (i) develop and field test microbiology programs for their ParKids program (junior high level), (ii) develop and field test a microbiology curriculum for their Camp Wildness program (high school level), (iii) develop signage for Yellowstone boardwalks, (iv) develop an electronic fieldtrip for their Windows into Wonderland website, and (v) participate on the Science Advisory Board for the new Old Faithful Visitor Education Center. We have also partnered with the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, MT to develop an exhibit on the earliest and most long-lived organisms on the Earth—microorganisms.