

Dear Principal,

25 May 2009

The Massachusetts Association of Science Teachers is pleased to announce **free registration** to our annual science conference in October, for the first one hundred teachers recommended. This is the first time in over 25 years that we have made this offer. **This offer is time-sensitive.**

In offering these free Conference registrations this year, we are hoping to overcome some logistical barriers teachers face this year. We know that funding is getting tighter in schools and even if teachers take personal days to attend the science conference, they may have difficulty funding their own registration. We hope this new offer will make it possible for more teachers to attend the conference.

Here are the details. Each principal in the state of Massachusetts is allowed to nominate one (1) teacher of science to attend. You must send us a letter on school letterhead stating that you have released the named teacher for either day of the conference (Thursday October 22 or Friday October 23) and that the school will cover the cost of a substitute teacher for the nominated teacher. In exchange, MAST will fund a free one-day registration for that teacher (a \$70 value).

Conference Registration covers the cost of a light breakfast, a mid morning snack, admittance to the Exhibit Hall, a lottery ticket (for door prizes), admittance to any and all workshops available on the day of attendance, and a one-year membership in MAST, which entitles the member to issues of our professional newsletter, *MASThead*. PDP certificates for 5 Professional Development Points are handed out at the end of each conference day to registered participants. Note that Registration does NOT cover the cost of lunch or transportation.

This invitation is for the largest state-wide science education conference offered in Massachusetts in 2009. It is a wonderful opportunity for professional development for teachers of science, and there will be workshops useful for teachers at all levels K-12 and in a great variety of subject areas. Workshop titles from LAST year's event are available on our website, to give you a sense of the range of workshops typically available. Many of the presenters for this conference are veteran and master teachers, including a number who have earned Presidential Awards for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching. In addition, some of the exhibit hall vendors will be offering demonstrations and workshops.

This science professional development conference will be held in Boxborough, MA on October 22-23, 2009.

Administrators are also welcome to register and attend the conference but our scholarships are restricted to teachers. The Conference is a joint conference organized by MAST (the state chapter of the National Science Teacher's Association) and MSELA (the

Massachusetts Science Education Leadership Association). Workshops appropriate for science teachers and discussions/ presentations relevant to science supervisors will occur concurrently.

We look forward to hearing from you. ***This is a time-sensitive document.*** We will honor the first 100 completed applications for a free registration (limited to one recommendation per Principal), based on the date received at the address below. The teacher will be notified if s/he has or has not received the free offer. Once we have received 100 requests, we will post on our website at www.MassSciTeach.org that the offer period has ended.

Thank you for supporting science education in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

Linde Eyster
President of MAST

Sample Recommendation Letter for Principal to fill out, print, and send to MAST

Dear MAST, Date _____

I would like to nominate _____ to receive a one-day free registration to the state science conference to be held in Boxborough, MA on October 22-23, 2009. S/he will be a full time teacher at my school for the 2009-2010 school year.

I understand that I am agreeing to provide release time for that teacher and I ensure coverage of any substitute teacher expenses that may be required to release that teacher.

The teacher's contact info is:

Name of teacher: _____

Name of school: _____

Grades/subjects taught: _____

Teacher's phone number: _____

Teacher's email address: _____

Teacher's mailing address: _____

Thank you.

(Principal's name and contact info)

Print this recommendation on school letterhead and mail it to Joann Blum, Conference Registrar, 17 Edson Avenue, Rutland, MA 01543