



SORENSEN MOLECULAR GENEALOGY FOUNDATION

Dear Parent,

The Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation (SMGF) is excited to announce the Molecular Genealogy Pilot Educator's Program—a teaching curriculum specifically designed to educate students on how to use DNA to learn about their personal ancestry. With your approval, we'd like to provide your student with the opportunity to discover more about their heritage using the building blocks of DNA.

The purpose of the curriculum is to provide your student with a personalized understanding of how DNA works. This opportunity will increase the student's understanding of DNA, their own ancestral origins, and how closely connected they are to the world around them. This curriculum has been set up to provide free DNA testing of each student (approximate value of \$130).

In order to participate, each student will need to research their family heritage by filling out a pedigree chart as well as submit a DNA sample. The pedigree chart will be used to help establish family connections and make sense of your genetic ancestry. The DNA sample is collected through a simple mouthwash swish. Once testing has been completed, we will provide your student with free DNA analysis and results.

If you do not want your student to participate, he or she is still welcome to participate in the in-class activities by researching the ancestry of famous individuals and historical figures such as Marie Antoinette and Jesse James. Regardless of your decision, we are prepared and eager to provide your student with opportunities to learn about and apply the principles of DNA.

If you decide to allow your student to participate in the personalized DNA testing, please indicate on page 6 of the attached consent form: sign line 3 and state your relationship to the student on line 4. If you choose not to have your student trace their personal DNA, please sign this form and have your student return it to their teacher.

For more information about SMGF or the Molecular Genealogy Pilot Educator's Program, please visit our website [www.smgf.org](http://www.smgf.org). If you have any further questions, please contact us at [educators@smgf.org](mailto:educators@smgf.org) or 800-344-SMGF.

My student, \_\_\_\_\_, will not be participating in the personalized DNA testing.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*For answers to frequently asked questions, see the other side of this sheet.*



## SORENSEN MOLECULAR GENEALOGY FOUNDATION

### **1. What is the goal of SMGF?**

At SMGF, we believe that a heightened sense of awareness of one's heritage is the key to understanding peoples of different ethnicities, socio-economic backgrounds, lifestyles, etc. By combining the cutting-edge technology of DNA testing with traditional genealogical methods, we hope to assist people in learning more about themselves and in turn gain a greater perspective of the world around them.

### **2. What is the goal of the Educator's Program?**

The purpose of the Educator's Program is to provide students with a greater understanding of DNA by giving them the necessary tools to personally apply the basic elements of DNA. This opportunity will increase the student's understanding of DNA, their own ancestral origins, and the world around them.

### **3. What part of the student's DNA will be tested?**

The Educator's Program will be focusing on the mitochondrial DNA (also known as mtDNA) which traces the participant's maternal line. mtDNA is carried by both men and women but is only inherited from the mother and is therefore not indicative of paternity or any medical conditions.

### **4. What is the benefit of participating?**

The student is able to better understand the dynamics of DNA using their own personal DNA profile. No longer is learning about DNA solely found in a textbook, but is a hands-on learning activity that can be used to research your ancestral origin. A student's DNA profile can be searched in the Sorenson Database, the world's largest DNA and genealogy Database, to find DNA matches from around the world.

### **5. What safety measures are you taking to protect the student's information once results are complete?**

At SMGF, we take every precaution to protect the privacy of each participant. In doing so, we do not reveal any personal information of our participants, or the names of any ancestors born within the last one hundred years.

### **6. What if students cannot provide a four-generation pedigree chart?**

In certain circumstances (i.e. adoption) the student might be unable to provide family details. They are still able to participate by providing as much information as is known. It is up to the discretion of the teacher to make sure that more than 50% of the pedigree charts are of high quality before requesting participation kits. High quality pedigree charts include but are not limited to:

- Names, birthdates, and birth places for fifteen or more ancestors.
- Ancestors born outside of the United States.
- Ancestors born more than one hundred years ago.
- More than four generations along the maternal line.

### **7. Is a pedigree chart even necessary?**

Yes! In order to continue providing these opportunities to students throughout our communities, we need your help. By simply providing your student's pedigree chart, you'll not only assist in your student's learning process but allow us to continue moving this project forward. The combination of DNA testing with traditional genealogical methods is unique to SMGF and promotes information from more than just one field of study.

### **8. How much will this cost?**

Due to generous contributions from the benefactors at Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation, this program is free!

### **9. What if I object to having my child's DNA tested?**

Parents can choose not to have their student's DNA tested; however, students are still welcome to engage in the program's additional in-class activities.

### **10. I'd like to have my DNA tested, how can I do this?**

If you are interested in participating in the SMGF project, you can request a kit from [www.smgf.org](http://www.smgf.org); however, if you are interested in obtaining your results, you will need to visit a commercial DNA testing facility and pay for the testing procedure.