



Invitation to Schools for Globe Day 2020

Hello Colleague,

Leysin American School Educational Research (LASER) invites you and your students to join us for our upcoming “Globe Day” student conference on Wednesday, 11 March 2020, from 10:00 to 14:30.

Globe Day 2020 will be our [sixth annual student conference](#), where young people present their projects and listen to short keynote speeches by scholars. A half-dozen other schools have been coming each year, bringing around 60 students and teachers, many of whom present their own projects, for a total of well over 200 participants. We continue to expand Globe Day to include additional schools, which provides a more meaningful experience for everyone.

We call it “Globe Day” because the concept springs out of [NASA's Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment](#), a citizen science program that aims to put student-collected environmental data into the hands of scientists for the benefit of both—and of the planet.

Our Globe Day themes have expanded well beyond science. Besides projects from science classes and citizen science by students, we embrace world challenges as inspired by GIN (the [Global Issues Network](#)), [Odyssey of the Mind](#), service projects from clubs, and art and social studies projects that explore diverse aspects of the human experience and of nature. The core of Globe Day is student participation in a conference of their peers. The conference motivates students as they investigate their world and then distill their findings into a presentation for their fellow students, whether it's a conference poster, a slideshow, a video, a painting, or something else (dance? music? theater?—we can accommodate many types of exposition).

If you'd like to learn more about the educational value of student presentations, I recommend the 2-minute [trailer to the Most Likely To Succeed Film](#) (see bottom of page). You can [learn more about Globe Day on our website](#).

We'd greatly appreciate an early indication of your interest to facilitate planning.

We hope you can join the 2020 Globe Day!

Cheers,

John Harlin
Director, [Alpine Institute](#) at LAS Educational Research
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Anticipated Schedule Wednesday, 11 March 2020:

09:30 – 10:00 Breakfast (optional for visiting schools)

10:00 – 10:30 Set-up in the gym of the Savoy Campus

10:30 – 10:35 Welcome from John Harlin, Director, LAS Alpine Institute

10:35 – 10:55 Keynote Speech #1

11:00 – 12:00 Poster presentations

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch

13:00 – 13:50 Breakout sessions

14:00 – 14:30 Keynote Speech #2 and closing remarks

Presenting a poster requires completing a project, designing a visual presentation showing that project (poster, video, slideshow, etc), and being able to talk one-on-one for 2-3 minutes about their work during the poster session. Participants will also watch the keynote speeches and attend the breakout sessions.

Keynote speakers have not yet been chosen for 2020. Your suggestions are welcome. Here were our keynote speakers from 2017-2019.

BREAKFAST (9:30 – 10:00)

Breakfast will be provided in the school cafeteria. This is optional for visiting schools.

SET-UP TIME (10:00 – 10:30)

Students will hang their posters and complete any set-up of physical props. Video screens and tables will be made available upon request. Please make all requests by March 1st to jharlin@las.ch.

KEYNOTE SPEECH #1 (10:30 – 10:50)

Keynote speakers will address the conference themes of citizen science and STEM in education. Speakers in the past have discussed topics such as glacier science, high mountain ecology, and grassroots development of citizen science projects. Speakers for GLOBE Day 2019 have not yet been chosen. We welcome suggestions for dynamic, engaging speakers who can talk informally to a young audience about issues, research, the environment, or especially about citizen science.



POSTER SESSION (10:50 – 12:00)

During this time students will alternate between standing next to their projects giving brief, 2-3 minute talks and circulating around the room and listening to talks. Groups will be divided up so that everyone has a chance to both present their project and listen to other students present. The poster session will take place in the school gym (see photo).

LUNCH (12:00 – 13:00)

Lunch will be provided by LAS in our school cafeteria. Menu includes vegetarian options.

BREAKOUT SESSION (13:00- 13:50) (this was 2018; 2019 is still in development)

Students who are especially motivated and want to present longer than 2-3 minutes have the opportunity to apply to host a “breakout session”. These sessions consist of smaller groups of students in classrooms (not the gym), and will run for 15-20 minutes, including time for questions and answers. Students chosen to give breakout sessions will present twice. ALL participating students will attend two breakout sessions. Students who wish to apply to host a breakout session must send an email to jharlin@las.ch with a paragraph or two explaining their interests, preferably by February 1st (later applications will also be considered).

KEYNOTE SPEECH #2 AND CLOSING REMARKS (14:00 – 14:30)

