

Letter of Parental Consent

Dear Parent/Guardian,

My name is Bruce MacFadden and I am a professor at the University of Florida. I represent a small group of researchers who are building and studying myFOSSIL (www.myfossil.org), a website and mobile app that helps citizens learn about and participate in the science of paleontology. We are particularly interested in how youth might use social technologies, like apps and websites, to better understand and take part in paleontology. You are receiving this letter because your child has signed up to use myFOSSIL and I am seeking your consent for their participation in our research.

If you consent for your child to participate in the study, your child will be asked to answer a few questions about their experiences and interests concerning science and social media. This will take about 5 minutes. They may also be asked to participate in a focus group on their experiences with science and social technologies.

There are no known risks to participation, and many students actually enjoy talking about their experiences with technology. Your child does not have to be in this study if they do not want to, or if you wish that they do not participate. They can quit the study at any time. If you have questions about this study, please contact me at 352-273-1937 or bmacfadd@ufl.edu. Additional questions or concerns about student rights as a research participant may be directed to the IRB02 office, University of Florida, Box 112250, Gainesville, FL 32611, (352) 392-0433.

If after reading this letter you consent for your child to participate, no action is needed. If you do not wish for your child to participate, please contact me at bmacfadd@ufl.edu or at 352-273-1937 to ensure we do not collect data from your child. Thank you!

Yours sincerely,



Bruce J. MacFadden, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor
Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology