Program Description:
The Oklahoma Health Care Workforce Center (OHCWC) presents HealthExplore™ – an interactive, fun science enrichment program that provides students with tools to explore health care careers. This program engages small groups of middle school students (grades 5, 6, 7 or 8) by immersing them in a fast-paced, hands-on learning environment to give them an insight into health care career options.

HealthExplore™ combines one hour of fun-filled educational Mad Science demonstrations and activities with one hour of health career exploration through a lecture-style discussion with health care professionals. Within a six hour timeframe students will spend the day exploring topics about how their bones develop and function, how their organs operate, and the importance of protecting their skin from the sun.

Description of Topics:
HEALTHY BONES (1 hour demonstration + 1 hour lecture-style discussion)
This workshop introduces students to the basic concepts of skeletal anatomy. They will manipulate life-sized human skeleton models, and examine how the different bones of our skeleton articulate, and how the joints operate. Students will also learn the importance of nutrition as it relates to bone development. Finally, students will critically examine skeletal injuries, and determine the cause, diagnosis and treatment of various bone traumas.

INNER WORKINGS (1 hour demonstration + 1 hour lecture-style discussion)
Welcome to your insides! Students will be introduced to basic concepts of human anatomy in this hands-on look at the body. They will use their prior knowledge to assemble the organs of the digestive system, and orient themselves in the three dimensional organization of the digestive, respiratory and circulatory systems. They will examine in detail the digestive tract, and gain an appreciation for its incredible length and will also learn about the circulatory system, and the double pump action of the heart. Using a model for the pumping action of the heart, students will explore the function of the heart’s chambers and valves.

YOUR SKIN & THE SUN (1 hour demonstration + 1 hour lecture-style discussion)
Students will learn the parts and function of the skin, and the importance of protecting the skin from excessive UV radiation. They will also learn about skin cancer and how it develops from the hazards of UV exposure. Each student will take home a sun beads kit to make their own UV detecting key chain.

Cost:
HealthExplore™ costs $1750 for a maximum of 25 students. The program cost is often paid by a hospital serving in your community.

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