

# Optima Public Relations

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## MEDIA ALERT: CSI Forensic Science Camp for Kids Begins Junior High Week

Anchorage, Alaska June 11, 2014 – The second week of the 2014 CSI: Alaska Forensic Science Camp for Kids began Monday and concludes on Friday June 13<sup>th</sup> in Anchorage, sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Alaska State Troopers (FOAST).

From June 2<sup>nd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> the Camp hosted 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders. This week brings the 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The topics and curriculum include the FBI discussing facial reconstruction, autopsy science, profiling, blood and tire print analysis, casting, toxicology and fingerprinting, DNA, explosion technology, search and drug dog introduction, gang culture assessment and entomology.

"This is our 10<sup>th</sup> and final year for the CSI Forensic Science Camp for Kids and I'm very proud of my instructors, the parents and students, and also the solidarity and support of law enforcement from federal, state and local levels to engage with our classes and training," said Deb Fancher, a 23 year chemistry teacher and lifelong Alaskan.

The camp's genesis was spurred by retired Alaska State Crime Lab Director George Taft and retired Alaska State Trooper Colonel Tom Anderson. The camp includes field trips to Alaska Fish & Game Shooting Range and the Alaska State Crime Lab.

"We've had a high percentage of kids attending from Mat-Su, as well as Anchorage, and this year even from other communities like Tanana and Soldotna," added Fancher. "Our biggest request is from adults who ask for a 'camp' they can attend and learn about crime scene investigations and forensic sciences."

Fancher attributes the camp's success to Anderson and Taft's involvement, community relations support by the Alaska State Troopers, and because of social media, like Facebook, which has generated discussions, positive feedback and excitement about the classes and tours.

"The goal of the camp has been to introduce kids to science through the field of forensics. Ten years ago national news headlines were indicating the majority of U.S. students had little interest in science. Director Taft and I agreed it was time to create and administer an educational forum to encourage science studies in Alaska. The CSI Forensic Science Camp for Kids was the result of that labor and we feel it's been a positive opportunity for hundreds of Alaskan students," said Tom Anderson, retired Alaska State Trooper colonel and former president of the Fraternal Order of Alaska State Troopers.

The students are attending the Fish & Game Shooting Range today and visit the State Crime Lab tomorrow (Thursday), with closing classes and training on Friday that includes a tour of the Anchorage Police Department Training Facility.

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