Read these simple tips before speaking to large groups of students

Questions to Ask Large Groups of Kids to Get Them Involved:

- Let's have a show of hands – who has ____?
- How many of you think/agree with ____?
- Can anyone give me an example of ____?
- How many of you have ever seen/heard ____?
- Who can tell me what they think ______ means?
- Does ____ sound familiar to anyone?
- Who has ever experienced ____?

“Don’t be such a scientist.”

“Although the mind may be part of your target, the heart is the bull’s-eye.”

- Dr. Randy Olson

Be sure to appeal to the emotional side of your audience. Tell a story. Share a part of yourself.

Practice your talk ahead of time!

- Prepare visual aids, demonstrations, exhibits or hands-on activity to keep your audience engaged. If you only talk to them, you will lose them!
- One-way communication becomes tedious. Include some conversational pieces (see Questions above) or time to share personal experiences.
- Using scientific jargon isn’t impressive – it causes kids to tune out or grow intimidated. Remember: most kids are shy. Make them feel comfortable.
- Kids enjoy volunteering. Provide opportunities for them to participate by handing out materials, being part of a demonstration or taking pictures.
- Students must feel safe to answer questions. If a “wrong” answer is given, try to reshape it to a “right” response, or validate it as much as possible.
- If you are using a slide presentation, limit the number of words and include pictures. Use the words as talking points; excess information won’t register.