

Oceans for Life: An Ocean Science Initiative for Multinational Students

Background

The problems that face the ocean today cross national boundaries and require global solutions. Oceans for Life: An Ocean Science Initiative for Multinational Students is an integrated solution that brings together diverse high school students to better understand the global ocean, each other's cultures and societies, thereby building a strong foundation for tomorrow's global leaders. The program is a collaboration between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, Meridian International Center, GLOBE Program, Scubababys International, National Geographic Society, American University's Center for Environmental Filmmaking, and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

High school students from Western countries will participate alongside high school students selected from GLOBE schools within the Greater Middle East, totaling thirty students for each two-week field study. Together, this diverse group of students will learn more about the unique qualities of national marine sanctuaries and the importance of the ocean to our planet. Within the context of this immersive two-week field experience at a U.S. national marine sanctuary, the Oceans for Life program will foster cross-cultural learning, appreciation, and relationships through exploration of how the ocean affects and connects us all.

The Oceans for Life field studies consist of collaborative ocean research expeditions, exploration, scholastic achievement, and an all-encompassing sense of wonder, while also allowing students from different countries to connect through common experiences and forge cross-cultural bonds. We anticipate that the program will help participants gain a meaningful understanding of our global relationships, provide perspectives that will remain for a lifetime, and be a formative experience for our future leaders. Fostering a better understanding of the environment, each other, and how we are all connected by one global ocean, is an excellent method to establish and strengthen our cross-cultural relationships.

Eligibility Requirements

To apply, each student must:

- be in high school (ages 14-18);
- be able to swim;
- be proficient in the English language; and
- be willing to participate in future program aspects, e.g. virtual conferences, and mentorship of future program participants.

Participant Benefits

Students will:

- participate in a 10-day immersive field study in one of America's national marine



- sanctuaries;
- participate in a 3-day visit to Washington, DC, which may include a visit to the White House, National Capitol, Smithsonian's Sant Ocean Hall, and more;
- learn about the interconnectedness of the world's ocean and how their local actions impact the ocean no matter where they live;
- build relationships with peers from different countries and cultures, and gain a better understanding of their differences;
- be immersed in classroom, lab, and field activities that raise awareness of the natural world and their connection to it, and how it connects them to each other;
- gain a better understanding of the scientific process and a deeper understanding of marine sciences; and
- work with mentors to learn how to use still and video cameras to photo document their field experience and develop "youth media projects."

Covered by the Oceans for Life Program

All students will receive:

- round-trip travel expenses;
- dorm-style accommodations and meals during the field study; and
- educational resources and materials from NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, GLOBE Program, and National Geographic Society.

Requirements of Participation

Students will be required to:

- attend all classroom, lab, and field sessions;
- participate in on-site and future assessments of the Oceans for Life program;
- be mentors for future Oceans for Life participants;
- work with their teachers and schools to ensure participation in long-term program;
- conduct at least two presentations to any of the following audiences: classmates/school, community, or conference in their home country; and
- submit an article to local newspaper and/or television station about the program and their personal experience.

How to Apply

1. Download and print the attached application.
2. Complete all sections of the application in black pen or typewriting.
3. Print two (2) copies of the Reference Form (Section IV), then fill out PART I and give one of each to your two adult references (non-relatives) to complete PART 2 and return to you in a sealed envelope.
4. Make sure you and your parent/guardian read and sign the last page of the application (Section V).



5. Return a copy of the completed application by 5:00 PM on February 27, 2009 to:

Claire Fackler
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
735 State Street, Suite 617
Santa Barbara, California 93101
Phone: (805) 963-3238 ext. 18
Email: claire.fackler@noaa.gov



OCEANS FOR LIFE STUDENT APPLICATION

SECTION I — CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Country: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

School: _____

School Category: Public Private Home School Magnet

Grade Level in the 2009-2010 School Year: _____

Age: _____

School Mailing Address: _____

School City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Country: _____

School Phone: _____ School Fax: _____

School Website: _____

Two non-relative, adult references are required, and forms must be completed with your application package.

Adult Reference #1 Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Adult Reference #2 Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of Birth: _____

Gender: Male Female

Ethnicity: _____

Dietary Restriction(s): _____

Medical Consideration(s): _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____

Email: _____



OCEANS FOR LIFE STUDENT APPLICATION
SECTION II — EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Make a list of the activities (i.e. sports, clubs, etc.) you participate in outside of classes.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Have you ever traveled abroad to another country? If yes, what country or countries did you visit and for how long?

Skills Inventory

Languages — Tell us what language(s) you speak in addition to English and level of fluency (basic, intermediate, or advanced). _____

Camping/Outdoor Skills/Certifications

Please check off the areas from this list that you have had experience in or are certified in:

Hiking/ Backpacking
Ecology/Nature Studies
Videography
Photography
Creative Writing/Journaling
Swimming

Boating/Kayaking
First Aid/CPR
Lifeguard/Water Safety
Snorkeling
SCUBA Diving
Other: _____



OCEANS FOR LIFE STUDENT APPLICATION

SECTION III — SHORT ESSAYS

The goals and objectives of the Oceans for Life program are:

1. To bring together ethnically diverse students in an immersive, hands-on program that allow them to explore, study, and gain new perspectives about unique ocean environments while gaining an appreciation about each other's diverse cultures.
2. To provide intercultural background materials and training for all staff and participants.
3. To provide one-of-a-kind, ocean-based field experiences for multinational students to explore their connections to the environment and each other.
4. To raise awareness of the importance of resources in the ocean, the current issues facing those resources, the research being done to address those issues, and the role of marine sanctuaries in protecting those resources.
5. To instill the desire to share ocean literacy in their communities as a means to communicate our shared heritage and dependence on the ocean.
6. To increase visibility of the GLOBE Program in order to encourage involvement of additional countries and/or expand existing programs in partner countries.
7. To develop still photography and video "youth media projects" that students can share broadly with classmates, schools, local communities, and other audiences through various outreach networks.
8. To foster a long-term collaborative education program including the classrooms and schools of all Western and Greater Middle Eastern participants.

Students will:

- be immersed in collaborative classroom, laboratory, and field activities that raise awareness of the natural world, their connection to it, and how it connects them to each other;
- gain an enhanced awareness and understanding of the conservation and stewardship of our ocean and coasts through introduction to the National Marine Sanctuary System;
- build relationships with peers and gain a better understanding of different countries and cultures;
- learn about the interconnectedness of the world's ocean and understand that their local actions impact the ocean no matter where they live;
- become advocates of ocean conservation and cross-cultural appreciation within their communities through outreach;
- be introduced to ocean science and related careers to inspire them to learn more



about these types of career opportunities;

- work with mentors to learn how to use still and video cameras to photo document their field experience and develop “youth media projects.”

To achieve these objectives, a variety of classroom, field and laboratory-based activities and educational lectures will be conducted and supervised by the Oceans for Life program partners, including staff from the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and partner facilities. Throughout the program, participants will be provided with opportunities to observe and describe features of the unique marine environment while developing a sense of place and interconnectedness. As a result, participants become better equipped to make informed decisions about their role in stewardship of the world’s natural and cultural resources. Upon their return to their local communities or home countries, participants are expected to share their experience and the importance of preserving the vast range of marine life, habitats, historical artifacts, and ecosystems. They are also expected to communicate with each other about best practices to promote ocean conservation and cultural understanding. Through their unified voices, the public’s awareness of marine ecosystems and issues of conservation will increase.

With these goals and objectives in mind, please respond to any five of the following questions. Please do not exceed 500 words for each question. Responses should be typed and attached to the completed application, making sure to include your full name in the top right-hand corner of the additional page(s).

1. Describe a time you have been moved/affected by a photo or film. How did the representation connect you to the subject matter? How did you share that feeling with someone else?
2. Have you ever met someone from another country or culture? How were you able to find common ground or similar interests with that person? Do you feel your understanding of that person’s country or culture was improved by meeting that person? If so, briefly describe how it was.
3. Describe an instance or visit to a place you felt was special. What about the place made it feel special to you? How were you able to share that feeling with someone else?
4. How will you raise public understanding about the incredible ocean resources and new cultures you will learn about during the field study?
5. How will you involve local, state, and/or national media in your field study experience and other related projects that may occur after the field study?



6. How will you encourage your peers and local communities to take action in marine stewardship activities?
7. Why do you want to participate in the Oceans for Life program? How do you expect it to benefit your personal growth and/or support your career goals?
8. What part of the Oceans for Life program do you think will interest you most and why? What do you think will be the most challenging part of the program for you and why?



OCEANS FOR LIFE STUDENT APPLICATION
SECTION IV — REFERENCE FORM

PART I: To be completed by the student applicant.

Applicant's Name: _____

Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

I am applying for the Oceans for Life program that requires the skills described below. Please add a narrative reference attesting to your knowledge of my competence in as many of these areas as possible.

I would appreciate it if you would complete this reference form and send it back to me in a sealed envelope at the address above by: _____ (insert deadline)

BACKGROUND — The problems that face the ocean today cross national boundaries and require global solutions. Oceans for Life: An Ocean Science Initiative for Multinational Students is an integrated solution that brings together diverse high school students to better understand the global ocean, each other's cultures and societies, thereby building a strong foundation for tomorrow's global leaders. The program is a collaboration between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, Meridian International Center, GLOBE Program, Scubanuts International, National Geographic Society, American University's Center for Environmental Filmmaking, and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

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4. To raise awareness of the importance of resources in the ocean, the current issues facing those resources, the research being done to address those issues, and the role of marine sanctuaries in protecting those resources.
5. To instill the desire to share ocean literacy in their communities as a means to communicate our shared heritage and dependence on the ocean.
6. To increase visibility of the GLOBE Program in order to encourage involvement of additional countries and/or expand existing programs in partner countries.
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- build relationships with peers and gain a better understanding of different countries and cultures;
- learn about the interconnectedness of the world's ocean and understand that their local actions impact the ocean no matter where they live;
- become advocates of ocean conservation and cross-cultural appreciation within their communities through outreach;
- be introduced to ocean science and related careers to inspire them to learn more about these types of career opportunities;
- work with mentors to learn how to use still and video cameras to photo document their field experience and develop "youth media projects."



PART II: To be completed by the non-relative adult reference.

Reference's Name: _____

Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Country: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

How long have you known the applicant? _____

What is your relationship to the applicant? _____

Check one rating in each category to assess the following qualities of the applicant.

Scale: 5 = Excellent; 4 = Above Average; 3 = Average; 2 = Below Average; 1 = Don't Know

	5	4	3	2	1		5	4	3	2	1
Is dependable and responsible						Is able to relate well to adults					
Has poise and ease in meeting people						Is adaptable and flexible					
Accepts differences in people						Is physically fit					
Is able to share ideas and feelings						Is creative					
Is able to work well in a group						Demonstrates leadership skills and self-motivation					
Demonstrates maturity and self-control						Is proficient in English					

Describe the applicant's special strengths and/or skills as they relate to the Oceans for Life program. Please give specific examples. If more space is needed, attach additional sheets, making sure to include the name of applicant and your name in the top right-hand corner of each page.

Reference Signature: _____ Date: _____



OCEANS FOR LIFE STUDENT APPLICATION
SECTION V — SIGNATURES

Statement of Intent

I have read the Oceans for Life program description and feel I am able to participate. I acknowledge that if I am selected to participate in the Ocean for Life program, I will be expected to attend the entire two-week field study, be willing to participate in future program aspects (e.g. virtual conferences, and mentorship of future program participants), and am responsible for sharing my experiences and “youth media projects” broadly to my classmates, school, local community, and other available venues.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please mark your preferred choice of field study (both field studies overlap in Washington, DC from July 27-29, 2009):

- Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Field Study — July 15-30, 2009
- California National Marine Sanctuaries Field Study — July 26-August 9, 2009

Parent/Guardian Permission

I have read the Oceans for Life program description to which my child is applying. To the best of my knowledge _____ (name of child) has a clear understanding of the event they have applied for, and if selected, has my permission to participate.

I grant the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and partners to share my child’s email address with other Oceans for Life participants. Yes No (circle one)

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Email _____

Parent/Guardian Phone: _____



Before submitting your application, please check to make sure all of the following sections are complete:

SECTION I — CONTACT INFORMATION

All blanks are filled out in black ink or typed completely and accurately.

SECTION II — EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

All blanks are filled out in black ink or typed completely and accurately.

SECTION III — SHORT ESSAYS

You answer five of the short essay questions asked. Your thoughts are presented clearly and concisely. Do not exceed 500 words for each question. Make sure additional page(s) have your name on the top right-hand corner on each page.

SECTION IV — REFERENCE FORM

Print two (2) copies of the Reference Form, then fill out PART I and give one of each to your two adult references (non-relatives) to complete PART 2 and return to you in a sealed envelope.

SECTION V — SIGNATURES

You and your parent/guardian has read through the Oceans for Life program description and application, then signed and dated the application where appropriate.

Return the completed application by 5:00 PM on February 27, 2009 to:

Claire Fackler
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
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Santa Barbara, California 93101
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