

Dear Parents/Sponsors:

Bring a Child to Work Day is almost here, and you are almost finished with registration!

Overview - Signing up for workshops:

The 10-12 year olds have a great set of workshop options this year. Please read the Workshop Registration Directions, and descriptions found in the attached document. If you have received more than one e-mail, it is because you have registered more than one child.

There are three different workshop tracks this year. Each child will rotate through only the workshops within their chosen track; each track is identified by a different color. In order to make the workshops as interactive and engaging as possible, each workshop track has limited space. Once a track reaches maximum capacity, a child is assigned to their 2nd choice. Most children are placed in their first choice, and I rarely have to dip into a third choice.

Event Day procedures:

Please check your child in at the tables at the SSMC Science Center, between 7:30 and 8:30 am on Thursday, April 22. Remember that if your child would like a snack you must bring your own. After check-in, you should return to your office. Your child will attend a morning program in the auditorium and then be escorted by NOAA chaperones throughout his or her workshops. All children will be escorted back to the auditorium after the workshops are over. Please pick up your child at NOON from the Science Center courtyard and lobby area.

I repeat: Please pick up your child at NOON. This mandatory rule will help ensure your child's safety and everyone's peace of mind. You may be surprised how unsettling it can be for "unclaimed" children!

Following lunch on your own, optional afternoon activities include an Ice Cream Social in the Science Center at 1:30 pm, and the movie "Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs" in the auditorium from 2:30 to approximately 4:00 pm.

Workshop Registration Directions:

Participants, sponsors or parents -- please review all three workshop track options found on the attached document – RED, BLUE, GREEN.

Rank the track (color) in order of interest: 1 being your top choice, 3 being your last choice. Remember, you will be attending only the workshops within the color track you choose. You may send a single e-mail response for multiple children if you like.

However, please indicate ranking preferences for each child you have registered and include their name with their ranking request.

All efforts will be made to accommodate your first or second choice, however all assignments will be made on a first come, first assigned basis.

Action Item: Please email your child's ranked preferences to me at Jeannine.Montgomery@noaa.gov no later than COB Wednesday, April 14.

On behalf of the BCWD committee and the other group coordinators, we're excited about this year's event and are looking forward to meeting all of your kids!

Sincerely,

Jeannine
Coordinator for 10-12 year olds
Jeannine Montgomery
Outreach Specialist
NOAA Office of Education

RED Track

Office: NOS NCCOS

Title: Ocean Bingo

Let's play bingo! Win prizes while learning about weird and wonderful ocean and coastal critters and issues that effect the environment.

Office: NMAO

Title: Adventures with the NOAA Corps

What's it like to command a ship, or fly an airplane through a hurricane or over rugged mountains and coastal waters? Did you know NOAA has its own commissioned service, similar to the military? Some officers are ship captains and airplane pilots, and they live for adventure!

Participants in this workshop will learn about NOAA Corps officers and their experiences at sea and in the skies. See how fast you can get into a survival suit used aboard NOAA ships and planes--it could save your life someday!

Office: NOS NCCOS
Title: Coral Reef Ecology

Coral reefs are some of the most biologically rich and economically valuable ecosystems on Earth. They provide food, jobs, income, and ecological protection to billions of people worldwide. Yet they are threatened by over use, pollution, habitat loss, invasive species, diseases, bleaching and global climate change. NOAA's Coral Reef ecologists are working to help protect these fragile ecosystems.

Participants will find out what it's like to be a coral reef ecologist. They will see how NOAA scientists measure biodiversity and how scientists explore the ocean to get important ecological information. Participants will get to experiment with tools used in data collection, learn about how fish and divers float and swim, discover what makes fish unique and adapt to their environment, and see how they compare to what NOAA scientists really see when they're at work underwater. They will also get to see what kind of SCUBA gear and scientific equipment NOAA scientist's use in their quest to measure the ocean's diversity.

BLUE Track

Office: OAR Office of Exploration
Title: Exploring the Mysteries of the Unknown Oceans

New technology and tools allow scientists to explore mysteries of the deep ocean in areas never before accessed, and they have found hundreds of new species and even new ecosystems. Yet, 95% of Earth's ocean remains unexplored.

Participants will learn about ocean expeditions to undersea volcanoes on the Pacific Ocean's "Submarine Ring of Fire," and take a Web-based virtual fly-through of black chimney smokers in the Magic Mountain vent fields. They'll touch an example of "alien" life based on chemicals, and see the results of water pressure at great depths.

Office: NWS, OCWWS
Title: Xtreme Weather

Severe or hazardous weather can threaten life and property. NOAA's Weather Service provides forecasts and warnings for the protection of life and property. Forecasts can range from the climate and seasonal outlooks for agricultural interests, to the daily county forecasts for the public. The NWS issues warnings for heavy snow, freezing rain, high winds, flash flooding, river flooding, thunderstorms, tornadoes, tropical storms, and hurricanes. In a broad sense, these are all defined as severe weather as any of them can and do pose a threat to life and property.

Participants in the Xtreme Weather workshop will learn about the dangers of extreme weather through interactive activities, animations, and games.

Office: NOS NCCOS
Title: Squid Stuff!

What animal can change color in a second, squirts ink, is jet propelled, and is also delicious to eat? The squid, of course! We'll be getting up close and personal with these critters, learning about how they live and dissecting them to see what they look like when they aren't breaded and deep fried!

GREEN Track

Office: NOAA Office of Education
Title: Surviving the Sea....Hide and Seek?

It's not quite that simple! Learning to look, learning to really see. Discover the strategies an organism might use to hide or hunt or greet or eat in their particular habitat. Create your own animal with unique characteristics, and then test your drawing against backdrops of three marine environments: intertidal estuary, coral reef, and deep sea. Will your animal survive the sea?

Office: NOS OR&R
Title: Albatross Bolus (Bird Barf!) Dissection

Bird barf? GROSS! Adult albatrosses catch and swallow prey at sea and then fly back to their nest to regurgitate food for their young. Albatross chicks then throw up a mass of indigestible material called a bolus. Unfortunately, albatrosses often mistake floating debris for food. We'll be dissecting actual albatross boluses to see what the adults are finding in the ocean. The results might be surprising!

Office: NOS Education and NOAA Office of Education
Title: You Are What (and Who) You Eat!

You go fishing on a clear day. The water looks clean and the fish are biting. You catch your limit and all is good.

How did the fish you caught get so big, what did the fish you caught eat? You become a fish and part of the oceans' food web ...will you be predator or prey? Is the biggest fish always the "winner"? Come spend time "swimming in our ocean" and find out some interesting facts about the fish that inhabit our ocean and the influences we have on their environment.