

Ocean Fun Days!



Calling All Monmouth and Ocean County Schools

OCEAN FUN DAYS SCIENCE FAIR

**IMPROVE SCIENCE SKILLS!
WIN VALUABLE PRIZES!**

FIRST PLACE: Trophy and 2 NJMSC/NJSG Education Programs*

SECOND PLACE: Ribbon and an NJMSC/NJSG Education Program*

EACH WINNING TEAM MEMBER AND MENTOR WILL RECEIVE A GIFT BAG

OCEAN COUNTY ENTRIES WILL BE DISPLAYED and JUDGED at OCEAN FUN DAYS on MAY 22, 2010 AT ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK. MONMOUTH COUNTY ENTRIES WILL BE DISPLAYED and JUDGED at OCEAN FUN DAYS on MAY 23, 2010 at the NJMSC/NJSG, SANDY HOOK.

Calling all Ocean and Monmouth County teachers and students (grades 3-4 and 5-6) who love science, nature and the Jersey Shore! NJ Marine Sciences Consortium/NJ Sea Grant (NJMSC/NJSG), New Jersey Natural Gas, NJ DEP Division of Parks and Forestry and NJ Department of Transportation Office of Maritime Resources (NJDOT/OMR) are pleased to announce the Annual OCEAN FUN DAYS Science Fair. This is a great opportunity for Ocean and Monmouth County students to discover new information about the Jersey Shore, share it with others and earn recognition and valuable prizes for their school.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA: Contest is open to teams of students in grades 3-6 enrolled in any Ocean or Monmouth County School. There are two categories per county: 1) Grades 3/4 and 2) Grades 5/6.

HOW TO ENTER:

- 1. Gather Your Group.** Each team or class should have a minimum of 4 students. Teams must have a teacher or adult mentor willing to supervise them. The teacher or mentor must accept the responsibility of registering the team and organizing the transportation of the team and their display to OCEAN FUN DAYS on May 22 at Island Beach State Park (Ocean County Schools) or on May 23 (Monmouth County Schools) at Sandy Hook by 12 noon. Awards will be given out at 2:00pm.
- 2. Select A Topic.** All OCEAN FUN DAYS Science Fair projects must be about the Jersey Shore and be science and conservation based. To develop a good project, teams should work together to select a topic everyone in the team agrees on. It doesn't have to be complicated.
- 3. Register Your Topic, Your Team and Your Intention to Participate.** Teachers or mentors must register their team's intention to participate in the OCEAN FUN DAYS Science Fair by April 15 using the registration form attached.
- 4. Research Your Topic.** After selecting a topic, learn the basics about it. Remember, this is a team project, so tasks should be divided. Books on chosen topics can most likely be found in the library. A great source of information is the Internet.
- 5. Make A Draft Work Plan.** Once a team feels 'expert' about their topic, they need to prepare a brief written plan as to how their project will be carried out. The plan should follow the scientific method and must include the following:
 - The purpose of the project or what the team wants to learn about the topic.
 - A statement of the problem or issue related to the topic.
 - A proposed experiment(s) or activity (such as an awareness or conservation campaign) that will be conducted on the topic.

NOTE: The written plan must be available for the judges to see at OCEAN FUN DAYS.

(Information continues, other side)

6. Carry Out The Plan. The next step is to follow the plan prepared by the team. If conducting experiments, each team should be sure to keep detailed notes on everything that is observed. If teams opt to conduct an activity, such as teach a lesson on their topic to others or perform a conservation-based activity, the activity should be documented. Teams should consider taking pictures, making sketches of observations or getting feedback from others. These notes and records will become especially important when teams begin to prepare reports and displays.

7. Analyze Your Results

Once experiments and/or activities are finished, each team should organize their findings and notes. Notes may need recopying so that they become more organized and can be easily understood by others. Then, analyze them. Ask each other what happened, did the results agree with your hypothesis, and so on. A graph or charts can help analyze it all and is a terrific tool to include in your final presentation.

8. Write A Report

Write a detailed report about the project and what was concluded or discovered. Tell exactly what your team did, how it was done and what you learned. Be sure to write about your plan and your experiments and/or activities. Include data, and, if appropriate, charts, graphs and/or pictures to help readers interpret the information. Be sure to include some of the background information learned.

9. Make Your Display

The display is crucial to each team's success at OCEAN FUN DAYS Science Fair because it tells about the project and can potentially teach thousands of OCEAN FUN DAYS visitors about your team's important Jersey Shore topic or message. The display must be neat and well organized. It should include background information, the problem, the hypothesis, the procedure, and the project's results or conclusions. Photos, drawings and other visuals can all be used to enhance the display.

10. Attend OCEAN FUN DAYS to explain the project.

At OCEAN FUN DAYS each finalist team will have the opportunity to share all that you have learned with thousands of visitors. Judging and awarding of prizes will take place at that time by a panel of professional educators and marine scientists.

**An NJMSC Education Program consists of a "NJMSC/NJSG Coastal Experience" guided field trip of Sandy Hook or in-school program for up to 25 students. Transportation to Sandy Hook is not included. To learn more about these programs go to www.njmssc.org and click on "Education."*

OCEAN FUN DAYS SCIENCE FAIR REGISTRATION FORM

(To be completed by team's teacher or mentor)

Name of School _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Name of Teacher or Mentor: _____

Contact Information: Telephone _____ Email _____

Grade level of student team (check one): 3-4 5-6

Title and Brief Description of Project Proposed: _____

MAIL OR EMAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION INFORMATION BY April 15, 2010 TO:

OCEAN FUN DAYS SCIENCE FAIR COMMITTEE
NJ Marine Sciences Consortium/NJ Sea Grant
22 Magruder Road, Fort Hancock, NJ 07732 Fax: 732-291-4483

QUESTIONS? Call Rosemary Higgins Ocean Fun Days Coordinator at 732-872-1300, Ext. 19 or email: rhiggins@njmssc.org

NOTE: First and Second Prizes will be awarded in both grade-level categories in each county.