

## FACT SHEET

Students from the Greater Middle East and Western countries immerse in field studies within National Marine Sanctuaries



Contact: Claire Fackler, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
805-570-1113, [claire.fackler@noaa.gov](mailto:claire.fackler@noaa.gov)

### **What**

*Ocean for Life* is an initiative to increase cultural understanding through ocean science. It provides high quality, immersive ocean field studies and subsequent education programs for students of diverse cultures and backgrounds.

### **When**

Thirty high school students from Greater Middle Eastern and Western countries will participate in the Ocean for Life Field Study to Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary from July 14-26, 2011.

### **Themes**

The themes of *Ocean for Life* are: a sense of place, interconnectedness and ocean conservation and stewardship.

Participants will learn about research, conservation and stewardship activities being conducted to address the issues threatening ocean health and to protect resources. The ocean topics being addressed during the 2011 field studies include: climate change, ocean acidification, blue whale ship strikes, global shipping, Chumash native peoples, kelp forest ecosystems, marine life of the Santa Barbara Channel and more.

Field studies will be used to raise awareness of the importance of resources in the ocean, and students will draw comparisons with their own unique local and regional environments.

---

### **Youth Media Projects**

Assisted by National Geographic photographers and American University film students, the participants will document what they have learned through the development of "youth media projects," using photography, video and narratives to capture the essence of their surroundings.

The youth media projects will become a tool to help *Ocean for Life* participants share what they have learned and promote ocean conservation and cultural understanding among their classmates, friends, families and communities back home.

---

### **Who**

*Partners:* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, The GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) Program, SCUBAnauts International, Inc. and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

*Collaborators:* National Geographic Society, American University's Center for Environmental Filmmaking and Meridian International Center.

*Supporters:* University of California, Santa Barbara Marine Science Institute (staff support and facilities); NOAA Fisheries (staff support); Santa Barbara Channelkeeper (instruction of activities); Watershed Resource Center and Art from Scrap (instruction of activities); Coastal Marine Biolabs (provide student interactions); Channel Islands National Park (tour of visitor center, island resource, and Channel Islands Live! underwater broadcast); Ventura County of Education (Channel Islands Live! underwater broadcast); Marine Exchange of Southern California (facility tour and live link capabilities); Wishtoyo Foundation (reduced fees for Chumash Discovery Village); Gretchen Hofman's Ocean Acidification Laboratory (lectures and tour of lab); Island Packers (reduced island transportation); UC Reserve System (field station facilities on Santa Cruz Island); The Nature Conservancy (use of their property on the Santa Cruz Island); Channel Islands Outfitters, Inc. (reduced fee for kayak rentals and tour); Growing Solutions (instruction of activities); Ty Warner Sea Center (reduced entrance fee); Congresswoman Lois Capps (support and time to meet students); and Om Sweet Mama (reduced catering rates for Santa Cruz Island and farewell beach BBQ).

NASA supports increased opportunities for today's youth to excel in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). As part of that initiative, NASA has awarded a substantial three-year grant in support of SCUBAnauts International and provides primary sponsorship of The GLOBE Program, both of whom are primary partners in the *Ocean for Life* program.

The U.S. Department of State has provided diplomatic and consular support for *Ocean for Life*.

*Sponsors and donors:* Qatar Foundation International, Ellmar Foundation, The Ettinger Foundation, WAFRA Investment Advisory Group, Inc. and One World One Ocean.

---

## **Background**

**VISION:** Promote cross-cultural understanding between world cultures through a greater appreciation of the ocean and how it connects us all.

**MISSION:** Provide high quality, immersive ocean field studies and follow-on education programs to facilitate cross-cultural learning, appreciation, and lasting experiences between multi-national students.

### **GOALS:**

- Bring together ethnically diverse students in an immersive, hands-on program that allows them to explore, study, and acquire new perspectives about unique ocean environments while gaining an appreciation about each other's diverse cultures.
- Provide cultural education materials and training for all participants and staff.
- 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 national marine sanctuaries in protecting those resources.
- Instill in students the desire to share ocean literacy in their communities as a means to communicate our shared heritage and dependence on the ocean.

- Develop still youth media projects that students can share broadly with classmates, schools, local communities, and other audiences through various outreach networks.
- Foster a long-term collaborative education program that includes the classrooms and schools of all participants and incorporates GLOBE monitoring protocols.

Highlights:

- Students work with photo and video mentors to create media projects which capture their experience.
  - Students learn about ocean environment and conduct field activities with NOAA national marine sanctuary scientists.
  - Visit to DC to tour Capitol, Monuments, the Smithsonian's new Ocean Hall, and a dinner reception.
  - Students continue to learn and correspond through [oceanforlife.org](http://oceanforlife.org) website upon their return home.
- 

***On the Web***

Ocean for Life: <http://oceanforlife.org>

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education/ofl>

Facebook Community: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ocean-for-Life/158328440900877>

National Marine Sanctuary Foundation: <http://www.nmsfocean.org/ocean-for-life>

The GLOBE Program: <http://globe.gov/news/articles/globe-students-join-ocean-for-life-14-26-july-2011>