

The Ocean In Motion:
Marine Science & Summer Snorkeling Program



Presented by:

SAN DIEGO
OCEANS
FOUNDATION

Promoting ocean stewardship since 1984!



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The Ocean In Motion

Program Purpose

The summer component of The Ocean in Motion: Marine Science Education Program is designed to provide San Diego youth an opportunity to learn about the marine environment through participating in educational snorkeling trips.

Educating students about the marine environment and encouraging them to take an active role its protection is of utmost importance (especially when the ocean is right in their backyard). With nearly 3 million people living in close proximity to our beaches and bays, the quality of life in San Diego is closely linked to the ocean. California, home to an abundance of ocean-related attractions, relies greatly on clean, safe and protected coastal waters. Without fundamental knowledge of how marine organisms and the quality of their aquatic world are interconnected, children may not recognize the need for their protection and conservation. Raising environmental awareness among young people is extremely vital to the survival of these systems (especially since these same minds will eventually be making the decisions which affect their health, both locally and worldwide).

Program Sponsors

The San Diego Oceans Foundation



The San Diego Oceans Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, was founded in 1984. Through diverse volunteer programs, SDOF continues to educate community members about local marine organisms and the habitats upon which they depend, raise awareness with regards to current conservation needs and provide simple solutions to environmental challenges. Whether educating youth with regards to marine science, transforming local divers and snorkelers into 'citizen scientists' in order to conduct underwater surveys, monitoring our urban canyons to prevent sewage-contaminated waters, increasing awareness about our connections to the ocean through storm drain stenciling or raising and releasing a commercially and recreationally important fish species, each and every volunteer (regardless of age or background) participates in meaningful, hands-on work. In doing so, these volunteers gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for San Diego's oceans and bays and go on to spread SDOF's message of ocean stewardship to their family, friends and communities.

The San Diego Oceans Foundation created all components of the 'Ocean In Motion' program and its curriculum. SDOF provides the marine science instructors, volunteers and equipment necessary to run all camps.

Birch Aquarium at Scripps



The Birch Aquarium interprets Scripps Institution of Oceanography research in order to provide ocean science education. Through creative exhibits, programs and activities, the Birch Aquarium increases the public's understanding of marine environments while promoting conservation. The Birch Aquarium allows for a more in-depth educational program. The aquarium displays an abundance of marine habitats (many of which are not seen in San Diego). Because of this extensive collection, OIM children are able to learn about a wide variety of organisms and ecosystems that are not available to us while snorkeling.



The Ocean In Motion

Program Sponsors

Outdoor Outreach

The San Diego Oceans Foundation works with Outdoor Outreach to serve as many children as possible. Outdoor Outreach is committed to providing an opportunity for at-risk and underprivileged youth to gain confidence and self-esteem through participation in outdoor activities like rock climbing, surfing, snowboarding, camping and hiking. Outdoor Outreach contacts and coordinates schools and groups wishing to participate and provides transportation to and from program site(s).



OUTDOOR OUTREACH

Sempra Energy

Sempra Energy believes in treating the Earth's resources with respect. They are committed to protecting and conserving the environment, and the health and safety of their employees, customers and the diverse communities in which the company operates and provides service.



Unified Port of San Diego

The Port of San Diego's Environmental Education Program's mission is to promote environmental stewardship and to instill an understanding of the importance of a healthy San Diego Bay and watershed. This program's goals are to ensure that local children have the opportunity to participate in memorable environmental education experiences and to give adults an understanding of their role in protecting the watershed in which they live.



YMCA of San Diego County

The YMCA of San Diego County is dedicated to improving the quality of human life and to helping all people realize their fullest potential through development of the spirit, mind and body. The San Diego Oceans Foundation has teamed up with numerous YMCA locations in order to offer marine science camps to as many local youth as possible.



YMCA



Program Details

Snorkeling groups typically consist of 10– 20 youth (ranging in ages from 7-17). Participants do not need to know how to swim or have previous experience with the ocean, as this program is designed to make their first steps into the water safe, educational and above all, FUN! Day camps usually last around 5 hours and include both science and snorkeling components.

The following timetable assumes a 12:00 PM start time.

Schedule

| | |
|----------|--|
| 12:00 PM | Participant Arrival & Introductions » SDOF volunteers arrive at 11:45AM |
| 12:15 PM | Site Introduction & Local Marine Organism Presentation |
| 12:45 PM | Gear Fittings & Snorkeling Overview |
| 1:00 PM | Snorkeling (Volunteers assist youth with gear/water acclimation) |
| 2:45 PM | Sand Core/Dip Net Sampling from Beach |
| 4:00 PM | Exit Water, Return Gear & Break Up into Workbook Groups |
| 4:45 PM | Wrap-up/Conservation Discussion |
| 5:00 PM | Participant Departure |

* Groups with transportation start off with a tour of the Birch Aquarium (workbook completion done at this location).





Program Details

Participant Responsibilities

SDOF Staff

SDOF is responsible for all program-related logistics. SDOF is responsible for coordinating and overseeing all staff, volunteers, youth and equipment use during all OIM programs. SDOF staff also conduct all marine science lectures/tours, detail snorkeling procedures and provide discussion opportunities for local conservation issues.

Outdoor Outreach Staff

Outdoor Outreach staff is responsible for coordinating pick up, transportation and drop off of selected groups. Outdoor Outreach provides additional supervision throughout trips and assist with all program-related activities.

Volunteers

Volunteers are arranged through the SDOF Ocean In Motion Program Coordinator and are required to complete a LiveScan criminal background check. All necessary information will be given at the OIM Volunteer Orientation and/or snorkeling site by SDOF staff. Volunteers must be strong swimmers, experienced snorkelers and able to work well with kids. Volunteers are responsible for the fitting of snorkeling gear and supervision of children while in the water.

Note: No adult should be left alone with a single child. At least two adults must be present when less than two children are being supervised.

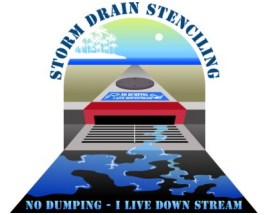
Youth

As previously mentioned, youth do not need to know how to swim to participate in the program. Kids who are extremely nervous will be paired one-on-one with a volunteer. Each child is outfitted with a snorkel, mask, wetsuit, fins and inflatable life vest. OIM participants are required to stay with their assigned supervisors and follow all instructions given to them. The youth are encouraged to gently touch marine animals presented to them, but are not allowed to dive or submerge themselves underwater in order to obtain them. Youth must wear an inflated life vest at all times.



Contact Information

SAN DIEGO OCEANS FOUNDATION



The San Diego Oceans Foundation intends to raise awareness within San Diego communities concerning the health and vitality of our neighboring ocean systems, as they are affected by our everyday activities here on land.

If you believe that our programs are a worthy cause, you can support our endeavors by partnering with us, participating as a volunteer or our becoming a member today!

The San Diego Oceans Foundation is a volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting the ocean stewardship and we'd love to welcome you aboard!



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Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have about the information in this brochure. You can also visit our website at www.sdoceans.org to learn more about what we do!