



OCEAN CONNECTORS

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WELCOME TO OCEAN CONNECTORS!

This nonprofit environmental education organization gives teachers and students a unique opportunity to participate in hands-on marine science activities both inside and outside the classroom free of charge. Students will learn fascinating information about sea turtles, whales, and birds through classroom presentations, journaling, and field trips. They will also participate in a “knowledge exchange” consisting of scientific communications with students in Nayarit, Mexico using artwork, writing, and video to share information about migratory marine life. Ocean Connectors aligns with Common Core learning standards and contributes to student academic achievement while inspiring youth to practice coastal stewardship. 99% of teenagers who participated during childhood plan to attend college, and 70% say they continue to take positive environmental actions as a result of Ocean Connectors.

One goal of the Ocean Connectors program is to alleviate the burden on public school teachers by making our curriculum easy to apply and use. This User Guide contains everything needed to implement the Ocean Connectors program, and *all materials are also available online on Edmodo and <http://oceanconnectors.org/resources>.*

We have just a few simple requests for teachers participating in the Ocean Connectors program:

- **Add the email address frances@oceanconnectors.org to your Trusted Sender list and Address Book.** Close contact is needed between the teachers and Ocean Connectors to plan for the classroom presentations and field trip. Be on the lookout for emails and please reply as quickly as possible.
- **All students must submit a Liability Release Form signed by a parent or guardian to attend the field trip.** This form can be found inside this User Guide as well as online. It is the teacher’s responsibility to ensure that every child turns in a signed Liability Release. Forms are collected at the start of your field trip.
- **All students must submit an Appearance Release Form signed by a parent or guardian to indicate whether photos and videos can be taken during the field trip.** It is the teacher’s responsibility to ensure that students who do not receive “appearance” approval are not included in photos or recordings. We suggest a small sticker on the student’s name tag or t-shirt to help us remember on field trips.
- **You will receive a box of student journals to use for all assignments contained in this binder.** Keep the box in your classroom and do not allow students to take the journals home, unless they are moving schools.
- **Teachers are encouraged to visit the Ocean Connectors [Facebook page](#) and click “like” to help grow the audience.** Ocean Connectors does not encourage children of any age to use Facebook. Instead, students should visit the Ocean Connectors website to view photos and leave comments on our [Message Board](#).
- **Teachers are one of the biggest influences in a child’s life, so it is important that you demonstrate sustainable behaviors in your classroom.** This User Guide contains a list of ten ways to be an environmental role model and we would really appreciate your cooperation with these easy steps.
- **At the end of the school year we will ask for your anonymous feedback using a Program Evaluation Form.** The Evaluation Form can be found in this User Guide, as well as online. Your comments are essential to improving our program content each year and we appreciate your honest feedback!

Thank you for being a part of Ocean Connectors! Please contact info@oceanconnectors.org with any questions.