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WELCOME TO OCEAN CONNECTORS!

Ocean Connectors is a nonprofit environmental education program that gives teachers and students a unique opportunity to participate in hands-on marine science activities both inside and outside the classroom free of charge. *Our mission is to use migratory marine life to educate, inspire, and connect underserved youth with the ocean.* Students learn fascinating information about sea turtles, whales, and birds through classroom presentations, journaling, and field trips (more information on next page). Ocean Connectors aligns with Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards, and contributes to student academic achievement while inspiring youth to practice coastal stewardship. 99% of teenagers who participated in Ocean Connectors during their childhood plan to attend college, and 70% say they continue to take positive environmental actions in their day to day lives.

One of the Ocean Connectors goals 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 programs, and *all materials are also available online at <http://oceanconnectors.org/resources>.*

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

- **Add our email addresses (@oceanconnectors.org) to your Trusted Sender list and Address Book.** Close contact is needed between the teachers and Ocean Connectors instructors to plan for the classroom presentations and field trips. Be on the lookout for our 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 our 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 an online Program Evaluation Form.** Your comments are essential to improving our program content each year and we truly appreciate your honest feedback!

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