

YOUTH OCEAN CONSERVATION SUMMIT

2017

Youth Ocean Conservation Summit

Event Program

December 9 • Mote Marine Laboratory • Sarasota, FL

***Empowering the next generation of ocean
conservationists!***





2017 Youth Ocean Conservation Summit Schedule Saturday, December 9, 2017 – Mote Marine Laboratory

8:45-9:20 Registration/Check-in

9:30-9:45 Welcome to the Summit and Mote Marine Laboratory

9:50-10:20 Keynote Presentation

10:30-11:00 Youth Ocean Conservation Team member presentations

11:10-12:00 Morning Workshop Sessions:

Conservation Project Action Planning Session

Careers in Ocean Conservation

12:00-12:50 Lunch

(Lunch in two waves; Action Planning participants start at 12:00pm and Careers in Ocean Conservation participants start at 12:10pm)



Afternoon Workshop Sessions:

1:00-1:50 Workshop Session 1

- Inside the Invader: Lionfish – Presented by Denise Ratajczak
- Restore our Shores...we can't do it without you! – Presented by Jody Palmer
- I Am Ocean Change: Create a Community Mural – Presented by Alyssa Irizarry & Ryan Sobel
- The Politics of Ocean Advocacy - Presented by Ben May
- CSI: Cetacean Stranding Investigation – Presented by Megan Folen
- Can Film Save Animals? – Presented by Justin Grubb
- Mote Aquarium Exploration

2:00-2:50 Workshop Session 2

- Inside the Invader: Lionfish – Presented by Denise Ratajczak
- Restore our Shores...we can't do it without you! – Presented by Jody Palmer
- I Am Ocean Change: Create a Community Mural – Presented by Alyssa Irizarry & Ryan Sobel
- The Politics of Ocean Advocacy - Presented by Ben May
- CSI: Cetacean Stranding Investigation – Presented by Megan Folen
- Can Film Save Animals? – Presented by Justin Grubb
- Mote Aquarium Exploration

3:10-4:00 Workshop Session 3

- Get Hooked on Conservation – Presented by Lisa Morse
- Trash to Treasure: Making use of trash in a positive way! - Presented by Kim Bassos-Hull
- Youth-Led Water Monitoring with the EarthEcho Water Challenge: Citizen Science & Activism - Presented by Elizabeth Sherr
- Interpretation of Science Through a Lens - Presented by Conor Goulding
- How to be a Shark Ambassador – Presented Michelle Andersen
- Rising Tides: A Teen Panel
- Mote Aquarium Exploration

4:10-5:00 Workshop Session 4

- Get Hooked on Conservation – Presented by Lisa Morse
- Trash to Treasure: Making use of trash in a positive way! - Presented by Kim Bassos-Hull
- Youth-Led Water Monitoring with the EarthEcho Water Challenge: Citizen Science & Activism - Presented by Elizabeth Sherr
- Interpretation of Science Through a Lens - Presented by Conor Goulding
- How to be a Shark Ambassador – Presented Michelle Andersen
- Rising Tides: A Teen Panel
- Mote Aquarium Exploration

5:10-5:30 Closing and Thank You's

2017 Youth Ocean Conservation Summit

9:50-10:20 Keynote Presentation: *Jennifer Gray, Meteorologist, CNN*

Jennifer Gray is a meteorologist for CNN based in Atlanta at the network's global headquarters and has earned the AMS Sea of Approval from the American Meteorology Society.

Prior to joining CNN, Gray was the weekend morning show meteorologist in the field and helped produce specials that focused on hurricane preparedness and safety. She co-hosted and co-produced 'Florida Insider Fishing Report' for Sun Sports and 'Beyond the Reef' in conjunction with Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation, raising awareness of conservation issues facing the oceans and Florida's fisheries.



Previously, Gray was a meteorologist for KTBS 3, the ABC affiliate in Shreveport, Louisiana, and KBTX 4, the NBC affiliate in Beaumont, Texas. During this time, she covered hurricanes, tornados, record heat waves, ice storms and flooding; and she reported from live events, including Super Bowl XLIV.

Gray earned her bachelor's degree of science in geosciences, broadcast meteorology program from Mississippi State, and she earned her bachelor of arts in broadcast journalism from Northwestern State University in Louisiana.

10:30-11:00 Youth Ocean Conservation Team Presentations

Young people are stepping up and leading the charge to protect our planet's marine ecosystems. Through this series of opening presentations, you'll be inspired by our Youth Ocean Conservation Summit alumni as they share the conservation programs they've launched after participating in the Summit. Their projects range from marine debris prevention and environmental education efforts to habitat restoration and wildlife conservation programs. Through these presentations they'll highlight their project planning process, lessons learned, and the impact of their efforts.



"Inspiration is around every corner at the Youth Ocean Conservation Summit. Personally, I found it in the amazing scientists and conservationists who are in attendance at the Summit as guest speakers or workshop leaders. There is so much to learn from the great minds that are working in the field of ocean conservation and marine research"

- Monica H., Youth Ocean Conservation Summit alumni



11:10-12:00 Morning Workshops

Action Planning Session (recommended for first time participants)



Is there an ocean conservation issue you wish to address in your community? Join students from across the country, and work with ocean scientists and conservationists, to develop a project and action plan to help

address relevant marine conservation issues. This engaging session will walk you through the process of planning your own ocean conservation project and help you gain the knowledge and skills you need to make your project successful! Afternoon workshops at the summit will help you further develop the skills you need to successfully implement your conservation project in your hometown and help protect our planet's marine ecosystems!



Careers in Ocean Conservation (recommended for returning participants)

Already working on an ocean conservation project and want to learn how to turn your ocean conservation work into a career? Then this workshop is for you! Join a panel of researchers, educators and ocean conservationists to learn about their career paths, educational background, and current day to day conservation work! You'll also have the chance to have your questions answered by this team of conservationists, and they'll share with you ways you can take action now to help with the ocean conservation work they do on a daily basis!



About the Careers in Ocean Conservation panelists:

Jaclyn Gerakios is an avid ocean advocate and ocean lover. She has a Bachelor's degree from Ohio University in Marine Biology and a Master's degree from Nova Southeastern University in Environmental Education. During her time as a classroom teacher, Jaclyn taught grades 5-12 all subjects of science, including marine biology and environmental science. She has taught in public and private school. During her time teaching middle and lower school, Jaclyn created a SCUBA program and continues to teach middle school students how to dive. She can be found diving whenever possible. Jaclyn also volunteers her time with a local sea turtle patrol during nesting season monitoring the beach for turtle nests. She is the past president of the Florida Marine Science Educators Association and has been on the board of directors for many years. She lives in Florida with her husband Peter and their 3 rescued dogs and 3 rescued cats. As Expeditions Mangers for EarthEcho, she works to take educators on amazing expeditions that allow them to bring real world environmental issues back to their students and communities.



Andrew Angelo is a Pittsburgh, Pa. native and started fishing in small ponds as a child. When he moved to Florida, his love for the water grew with an access to the beach. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Biology and served multiple internships working with sea turtles, snook larval rearing, and live feed rearing. He landed an Aquarium Biologist position at Mote in 2012. Today he works with sea jellies at Mote Aquarium. He does everything from breeding and cleaning them, to raising the live foods that are necessary for their growth and development. Throw in a few husbandry research projects and bad jelly jokes, and that is a typical day for this Aquarium Biologist!

Gretchen Lovewell has been active in the stranding network since 1999 and in a leadership role since 2003, first as North Carolina's state stranding coordinator for NOAA Fisheries and currently as the Stranding Investigations Program Manager at Mote Marine Laboratory. Since 1999, Gretchen has responded to over 40 different species of marine mammals and sea turtles and hundreds of stranding responses. In addition to her stranding work, Gretchen has participated in aerial and vessel surveys for marine mammals, is a Level 3 first responder for large whale disentanglement and has participated in multiple dolphin health assessments and rescues. This work has led to several collaborators on peer-reviewed scientific papers, presentations and reports.





Rebecca Hazelkorn joined the Stranding Investigations Program at Mote Marine Laboratory in November 2012. She has a Bachelor's of Biology from Georgia Southern University and a Master's of Marine Science from Savannah State University. Her background was mainly focused on animal behavior, including dogs, horses, turtles and dolphins. During her graduate degree, she was an active participant in two stranding networks. Additionally, Rebecca has participated in a variety of field projects and research that relate to marine mammals and sea turtles. She attributes much of her success to what she learned and the connections she made while an intern at Mote Marine Laboratory in 2008.

Nancy Silberkleit is the Co-CEO of Archie Comics. She is a well-respected educator, public speaker, and internationally-recognized entrepreneur. With her background in education and publishing, expertise in child development, and a natural skill-set for entrepreneurship, Nancy has been instrumental in ensuring the graphic platform serves as a means to utilize the entertaining edge of comic books to present information on relevant social issues. Nancy's years with Archie Comics have been dedicated to promoting graphics as an academic resource for communicating in today's world. In Nov. 2012, Nancy spoke at INK Talks in Pune India and returned months later to be part of Globe One. Her visit to India connected her to Flame University, where students shared their thoughts on global education and getting young people interested in education. Silberkleit's philanthropy has been steadfast throughout the United States and abroad with the passion to encourage youth to embrace her message: "Never let anyone define who they want you to be. You know who you are. Get active in your life."





12:10-1:10 Lunch

While enjoying your lunch, continue to finalize the details of your ocean conservation project action plans, and take time to network with other youth attending the summit as well as the representatives from local environmental organizations!

Afternoon Workshops:

Use the below schedule to help select your afternoon workshop sessions. These workshops are designed to equip you with the knowledge, skills, and resources you need to help launch your newly planned ocean conservation projects and/or continue to expand your existing conservation efforts! Complete workshop descriptions and About the Presenters can be found on the following pages.



Afternoon Workshop Sessions

1:00-1:50 **Workshop Session 1**

- Restore our Shores...we can't do it without you! – Presented by Jody Palmer
- Inside the Invader: Lionfish – Presented by Denise Ratajczak
- I Am Ocean Change: Create a Community Mural – Presented by Alyssa Irizarry & Ryan Sobel
- CSI: Cetacean Stranding Investigation – Presented by Megan Folen
- Can Film Save Animals? – Presented by Justin Grubb
- The Politics of Ocean Advocacy – Presented by Ben May
- Aquarium Exploration

2:00-2:50 **Workshop Session 2** (Session 1 workshops repeat in Session 2)

3:10-4:00 **Workshop Session 3**

- Get Hooked on Conservation – Presented by Lisa Morse
- Trash to Treasure: Making use of trash in a positive way! - Presented by Kim Bassos Hull
- Youth-Led Water Monitoring with the EarthEcho Water Challenge: Citizen Science & Activism - Presented by Elizabeth Sherr
- Interpretation of Science Through a Lens - Presented by Conor Goulding
- How to be a Shark Ambassador – Presented Michelle Andersen
- Rising Tides: A Teen Panel
- Aquarium Exploration

3:40-4:25 **Workshop Session 4** (Session 3 workshops repeat in Session 4)

Afternoon Workshops:

I Am Ocean Change: Create a Community Mural – Presented by Alyssa Irizarry & Ryan Sobel

(Offered Sessions 1 & 2)

Join your fellow Summit-goers in the creation of a community ocean-themed mural! During this hands-on, collaborative activity, participants will explore the history of public environmental art; learn about mural techniques, resources, and materials; and express themselves while contributing to the creation of a Youth Ocean Conservation Summit mural. Open to all art levels and experience.

About the Presenters:

Alyssa Irizarry is an artist and Program Director at Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Programs, a Boston-based nonprofit that works to engage teens in ocean conservation and advocacy through the arts. Alyssa has been involved in environmental education for 10 years, with a focus on using creative media as a tool for environmental literacy and conservation. She is particularly passionate about helping students of all ages discover and explore their relationship with water systems. Alyssa holds a B.A. in Art History and Environmental Studies from Tufts University.



Throughout his life, **Ryan Sobel** has always held a great interest in nature and the arts. His love for art began with simple pencil sketches while exploring the forests around his childhood home. However, it wasn't long before he fell in love with paint and brushes, leaving behind his sketchpad for canvas. Paintings of nature and wildlife were later joined by the cosmic world - inspired by his captivation with astronomy. Although these two subjects seem quite different to be combined, similarities can be found. "Both the oceans and space have been called 'our last great frontiers'. We may look up at the stars each night, or look out across the ocean each day, but it's strange to think how little we know about these other worlds. They're out of reach to most; and often their mere existence is known to us solely through the pages of a book, or within our imaginations. This inaccessibility sparks curiosity and wonder." And so, Ryan wanted to take advantage of this curiosity, as it has struck him as well, and combine these two subjects into one; offering a glimpse into the hidden worlds we have only just begun to explore. Ryan has dedicated himself to using his artwork for conservation purposes. His work has been displayed across the U.S. in various museums, public aquariums, zoos, and other institutions. Through his artwork, he has been able to assist conservationists and environmental organizations around the nation. He hopes to continue this work and do all that he can to bridge the gap between science and the arts



The Politics of Ocean Advocacy – Presented by Ben May

(Offered Sessions 1 & 2)

In this workshop, you will learn valuable lessons on how to effectively use politics and diplomacy to make your community more sustainable. These lessons include how to react to opposition, how to convince administrators to support you, how to get more people involved in your project, and much

more! Whether it is speaking with politicians, school district officials, or your peers, the art of diplomacy will come in handy during every part of your journey as a youth ocean advocate.



About the Presenter:

Ben May is devoted to empowering others to bring about large-scale change through small-scale actions. To achieve this goal, he has worked on various environmental initiatives to promote sustainability. Ben is the founder of the Environmental Outreach club at Mount Sinai High School. This group organizes and implements the school's recycling program, runs an annual beach cleanup and – most of all – encourages fellow students to adopt a more sustainable lifestyle. In 2015, Ben worked on the planning committee for Long Island's first Youth Ocean Conservation Summit and later received a mini grant for the Buy a Bottle, Save A'Little program. In 2016, he was one of seven international youth leaders to be selected for the Sea Youth Rise Up Campaign's

inaugural delegation. This movement was meant to highlight the challenges our oceans face through an international live broadcast, a visit to the United Nations, a meeting with President Obama's Environmental Quality Council, and a documentary film. Ben graduated as the valedictorian of Mount Sinai High School. He is currently a freshman at the University of Pennsylvania where he will be double majoring in mathematical economics and international relations. He serves as the Communications Coordinator for the Youth Ocean Conservation Summit.

Restore our Shores...we can't do it without you! – Presented by Jody Palmer

(Offered Session 1 & 2)

Join us as we embark on a journey to restore the most biologically diverse estuary in the Continental United States. Your participation in this workshop will allow you to learn about Florida's Indian River Lagoon and participate in one of the nation's largest community based oyster and mangrove restoration events. Together we will create oyster restoration models and plant mangroves to really make a significant impact for a critical habitat that needs you the most.



About the Presenter:

Jody Palmer, Brevard Zoo's Director of Conservation began working at the Zoo in August 2005. Brevard Zoo's mission statement is "Wildlife Conservation through Education and Participation" and is a leader in the field working with her team on local and international conservation projects, ranging from terrestrial to aquatic. A few of the initiatives include Florida Scrub Jay translocation, Perdido Key Beach Mouse breeding and reintroduction, Diamondback Terrapin Research, and Manatee rescue, rehabilitation and research in partnership with FWC. One of the most impactful programs the Conservation department facilitates is Restore our Shores; seagrass, mangrove and oyster restoration. Ms. Palmer and her team lead community outreach and education initiatives for the Indian River Lagoon's living shoreline project since 2011, stabilizing the coast using aesthetically pleasing, natural methodologies to reintroduce native species. In 2013, Field and Stream Magazine named Ms. Palmer a Conservationist of the Year candidate and Disney Conservation Fund named the Oyster Restoration Team including Jody Palmer, as a Hero of

Conservation. Ms. Palmer serves on the Association of Zoos and Aquarium (AZA) Field Conservation Committee and chairs the Florida AZA Conservation Committee. She is an alumni member of the Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders program, Class 6 as well as a Florida Tech Alumni Association board member. During short breaks from 'Saving the World,' Ms. Palmer enjoys coaching her son's little league team, SCUBA diving, triathlons and section hiking the Appalachian Trail.

Can film save animals? – Presented by Justin Grubb



(Offered Session 1 & 2)

Learn about the importance of film making in forming a message to help protect wildlife and get some hands on experience making short conservation videos of your own.

About the Presenter:

Justin Grubb is a conservationist, teacher and wildlife filmmaker, Justin's passion for the outdoors and for wildlife has brought him all over the world to help save and document species in peril. His filmmaking has taken him to Africa, the Pacific Islands, Asia and Central America. Justin currently lives in Jacksonville Florida where he also is a marine science teacher and is a part of a group called the Emerging Wildlife and Conservation Leaders.

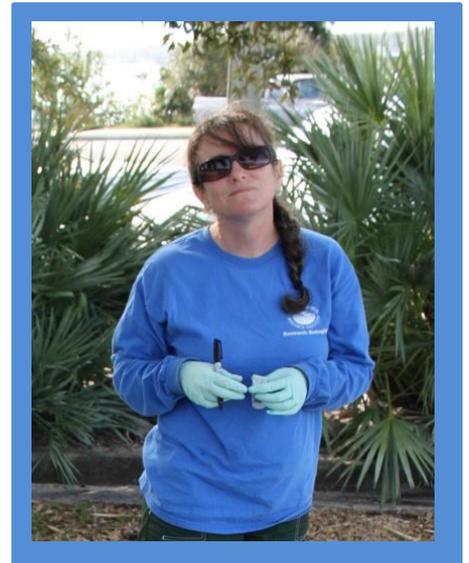
CSI: Cetacean Stranding Investigation – Presented by Megan Stolen

(Offered Sessions 1 & 2)

This workshop will introduce you to the field of marine mammals from the inside out. A mock dolphin stranding will be introduced with follow up examinations to understand what happened in the stranding case.

About the Presenter:

Megan Stolen is a research scientist with 25 years of experience in the marine mammal field. She is an expert in post-mortem exams, marine mammal rescue and life history analysis. She also directs research on river otters in the Indian River. She holds a B.S. and M.Sc. degree and a post graduate certificate in Wildlife Conservation and Forensic Sciences.



How to be a shark ambassador – Presented by Michelle Andersen

(Offered Session 3 & 4)

Kids are the next generation and they can make a huge difference for our planet! However, they do not need to wait until they grow up and can vote to make a difference. Students of any age can make a difference using their own hobbies and skills.

About the Presenter:

Michelle Andersen grew up in chilly Minnesota with a love for the ocean! When I graduated high school I moved to Florida to pursue Marine Biology at the University of South Florida, St.

Petersburg. Throughout my education, I worked at the Florida Aquarium and on two separate occasions I had the opportunity to gain field experience at the Bimini Biological Field Station in Bimini, Bahamas. In my free time I am an avid scuba and free diver. I love sharing my experience and love of sharks with students and I believe that any student at any age can make a difference for our oceans!

Get Hooked on Conservation – Presented by Lisa Morse

(Offered sessions 3 and 4)

Fishing is not the first thing that comes to mind when you think of conservation. However, when you take a deeper look into the sport of recreational angling, you will realize that there is a lot of conservation involved ranging from simple fish identification to catch and release to recycling monofilament. Also, with increased access to technology and digital screens comes a decreased time spent enjoying the great outdoors and nature. Fishing is a great way to get people back outside and interacting with wildlife in a very unique way. To learn more about recreational angling and the importance of its existence to conservation, join the IGFA during this hands-on session where participants will also brainstorm different events and ideas to be utilized in IGFA's World Angling Day beginning June 7, 2018 as they create individual line recycling containers through the Stow It, Don't Throw It project.

About the Presenter:

Lisa Morse is an Outreach and Education Coordinator at the International Game Fish Association (IGFA). She creates and facilitates educational programs for children, campers, students, and adults and is responsible for developing national and international outreach activities relating to recreational fishing and environmental education. Growing up in a small town in New York and fishing the farm ponds for Largemouth Bass and Bluegill, Lisa developed a love for nature, especially for fish, at a very early age. This led her to receive her Bachelor of Science in Biology at Saint Francis University in Loretto, PA, but it was the ocean that drove her to achieving her Master of Science degree in Marine Biology at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, FL. IGFA seemed like a great fit for her to start volunteering because it incorporated fishing, marine science, and most importantly, fish! For the past 9 years, Lisa has grown into the role as one of the lead educators at the IGFA teaching the next generation of anglers and conservationists and giving them the knowledge of how to fish responsibly and how to be stewards of the environment. As a Marine Biologist, she also stresses the importance of maintaining aquatic habitats and has started an initiative with IGFA's campers to remove marine debris and create "Plastic Portraits" of game fish using mini plastics collected from local beaches. She has recently been given the task to develop an internationally recognized day of observance for recreational fishing to introduce new anglers to the sport, reconnect children with the outdoors, and to educate all about ethical angling and conservation.



Trash to Treasure: Making use of trash in a positive way! - Presented by Kim Bassos-Hull

(Offered Session 3 & 4)

ARRRT (Always Reduce Reuse Recycle Trash) For Conservation! Come join this workshop to learn all about useful ways "trash" can be used to make beautiful or useful things. Kim will highlight her research work with marine debris and how it impacts wildlife and habitats. Students will then have some hands-on activities working with trash (aka marine debris) that they can take to their schools or

conservation clubs to promote awareness of marine debris and encourage conservation actions to reduce it in the environment. This will be a fun DIY (Do It Yourself) activity!

About the Presenter:

Kim Bassos-Hull is currently a Senior Biologist with Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, Florida. Kim heads up the Spotted Eagle Ray Conservation Program at Mote and works closely with Mote's Education Program as a research mentor (specifically the High School Intern Program). Additionally, since 1990 Kim has been studying dolphin populations off the southwest coast of Florida as a Research Associate with the Sarasota Dolphin Research Program (affiliated with the Chicago Zoological Society). Kim Co-Chairs the Florida Marine Debris Reduction Plan's Wildlife and Habitats Impacts Group - working on solutions to reduce impacts on our wildlife. Since 2009 Kim has led a research project documenting spotted eagle ray biology, behavior, and fisheries impacts in Florida, Mexico, and Cuba and in more recent years has expanded to include manta and devil rays using tagging and tracking. One of Kim's career goals is to connect research and education in order to inspire conservation action.



Interpretation of Science Through a Lens – Presented by Conor Goulding

(Offered Sessions 3 & 4)



Science is the understanding of the things that make our world what it is. To many, science may be hard to interpret and ultimately difficult to comprehend. Our job as researchers and scientists is to break down the communication gap and translate the research to the world in an understandable manner. A fantastic way to easily and effectively do this is through the use of photography to give a concrete view of ongoing problems throughout our growing planet. You know the old saying, "One picture is worth a thousand words". Let's dive into this discussion on how you can make your presentations much more effective through the use of a lens and a camera.

About the Presenter:

Conor Goulding is a southwest Florida native who grew up on the water, which developed into a passion for our oceans. For a few years, he was tired of the heat and attended Virginia Tech

and majored in Natural Resource Conservation, then soon after moved back to the sunshine state. Influenced by photos of animals as a child, he was inspired to pick up photography and create the same influence onto the next generation. With the combination of exceptional diving skills and photography, he decided to combine the two and dove into underwater photography. He's worked on several projects, including working with the City of Naples, Collier County, and the UF IFAS Collier County Sea Grant Extension Program in the largest artificial reef construction project in the northern hemisphere, assisting in pre and post survey dives of recently deployed reefs, and photographing sites for documentation purposes and news outlets. Now he is currently the in-house photographer at Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium where he shoots a wide variety of subjects, including research, press relations, and aquarium needs.

Youth-Led Water Monitoring with the EarthEcho Water Challenge: Citizen Science & Activism – Presented by Elizabeth Sherr

(Offered Session 3 & 4)

Every human being plays an important role in caring for water. Throughout each of the world's watersheds, people are the consumers of and the advocates for water resources. Government efforts alone cannot provide the range and variety of information needed to assess water quality in each watershed. Therefore, it is essential that citizens become involved in protecting the health of their local waterways.

Citizens who are willing to build upon governmental efforts play an important role in helping to protect local watersheds. Join EarthEcho International as we provide training and technical assistance for youth to join citizen scientists across the world as part of the EarthEcho Water Challenge. The EarthEcho Water Challenge is an international education and outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local waterways. Workshop participants will have the opportunity to take part in a hands on water monitoring activity and will leave with the tools and resources needed to:

- Test and report on water quality in their own community
- Incorporate citizen science components into their ocean conservation project
- Utilize EarthEcho resources to highlight their work to protect waterways
- Contribute water quality data to the EarthEcho Water Challenge global database
- and take action to address water issues across the world



About the Presenters:

Born and raised in New York, Elizabeth had always wanted to experience the ocean more in depth. Elizabeth finally entered the marine world and gained her scuba certification in her mother's country, Honduras, in 2012. Since then, she has been scuba diving in Israel and Mexico and extended her passion for conservation through leadership in marine organizations. President of her school's Surfrider club, Elizabeth raises awareness on the issue of marine debris on Florida's coasts, participates in monthly beach clean-ups, and encourages students to greater appreciate the ocean. Additionally, Elizabeth is part of the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program (DDCSP) which is a two-year program that emphasizes diversity in the field of conservation. In 2016 for her first summer in the DDCSP, Elizabeth created her own project observing ctenophore interactions with micro plastics beads at the UF Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience. The following summer, Elizabeth spent most of her time in the water working on a UF hard bottom restoration project, stone crab fidelity project, and worked part-time with FWC on their lobster and boat surveys in the Florida Keys. In August 2017, Elizabeth presented her first summer's research at the Ecological Society of America annual conference in Portland. Elizabeth has also served as a campus ambassador for the Wildlife Conservation Society's campaign, 96 Elephants, to raise awareness on the ivory trade and encourage students to sign the petition to ban it. Lastly, Elizabeth serves on the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) of EarthEcho International in which she helps promote EarthEcho's ocean conservation projects in her campus and through social media, leads the YLC Marketing Committee, and gives her peers a new perspective on how they should live a more sustainable lifestyle and treat their environment.

Rising Tides: A Teen Panel

(Offered Session 3 & 4)

Your generation is one that can make a difference to help save our majestic oceans. Come learn how to inspire youth and create a better world for our marine neighbors. Join your peers on our Teen Panel as they share community projects and outreach programs they have started in the state of Florida. Each panelist will share their experiences and inspirational ideas to help you get your community project started. You will learn tips and tricks to help make your next project a success. This session is for teens by teens!

About the Presenters:

Our teen panelists are from all over Florida with a passion and enthusiasm for ocean conservation.

Mote Aquarium Exploration

(Offered All Sessions)

During this workshop you will be able to participate in an informal guided tour of Mote Aquarium. You will be able to see our indoor galleries, visit our large shark exhibits and 2 touch tanks.

5:10-5:30 Closing Remarks/ Youth Ocean Conservation Team/ Evaluations





2017 Youth Ocean Conservation Film Competition

Are you an aspiring filmmaker? Is there an ocean conservation issue you want to share with others? All students in grades preschool-college are invited to take part in the 2017 Youth Ocean Conservation Film Competition!

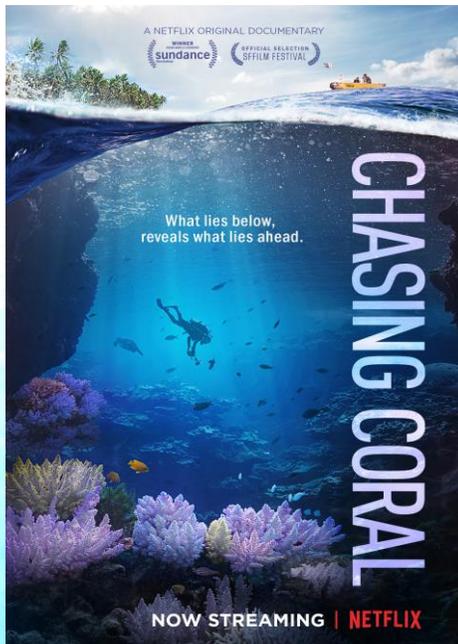
This competition provides you with the chance to highlight an ocean conservation issue that's relevant in your home town, create a short video to raise awareness about a conservation project, or film a public service announcement encouraging people to protect our planet's ocean. The possibilities are endless – just use your creativity! Winning films will be screened as part of the 2017 Community Ocean Conservation Film Festival, which will be held on December 8th at Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, FL. Winners will also receive exciting prizes!

Visit www.yocs.org to download the contest rules and video submission instructions! Deadline for video submissions is October 31, 2017. Good luck!



2017 Community Ocean Conservation Film Festival

*An evening of ocean science and conservation
celebrating the work of young leaders*



Join young ocean conservation leaders, special guests and members of your community as we kick off the 2017 Youth Ocean Conservation Summit weekend!

This year's event will feature a special screening of the award winning film *Chasing Coral*. *Chasing Coral* taps into the collective will and wisdom of an ad man, a self-proclaimed coral nerd, top-notch camera designers, and renowned marine biologists as they invent the first time-lapse camera to record bleaching events as they happen. Unfortunately, the effort is anything but simple, and the team doggedly battles technical malfunctions and the force of nature in pursuit of their golden fleece: documenting the indisputable and tragic transformation below the waves. With its breathtaking photography, nail-biting suspense, and startling emotion, *Chasing Coral* is a dramatic revelation that won't have audiences sitting idle for long.

Come be inspired by the work of young conservation leaders through a showcase of student driven ocean conservation projects and films! Meet young people making a difference to protect our blue planet and hear from ocean conservation leaders of all ages.



Silent Auction/Raffle Fundraiser:

Support the Youth Ocean Conservation Summit program during this event by bidding on marine themed silent auction items including art, photography, and ocean themed prizes donated by renowned artists and conservation organizations.

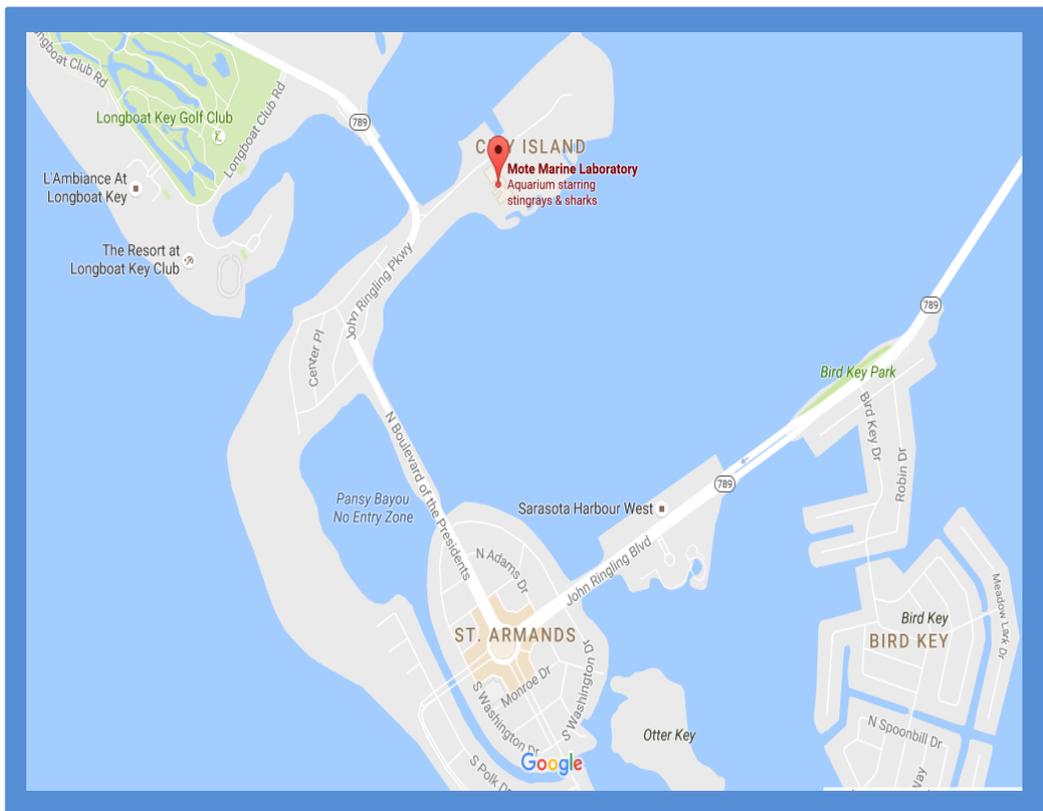
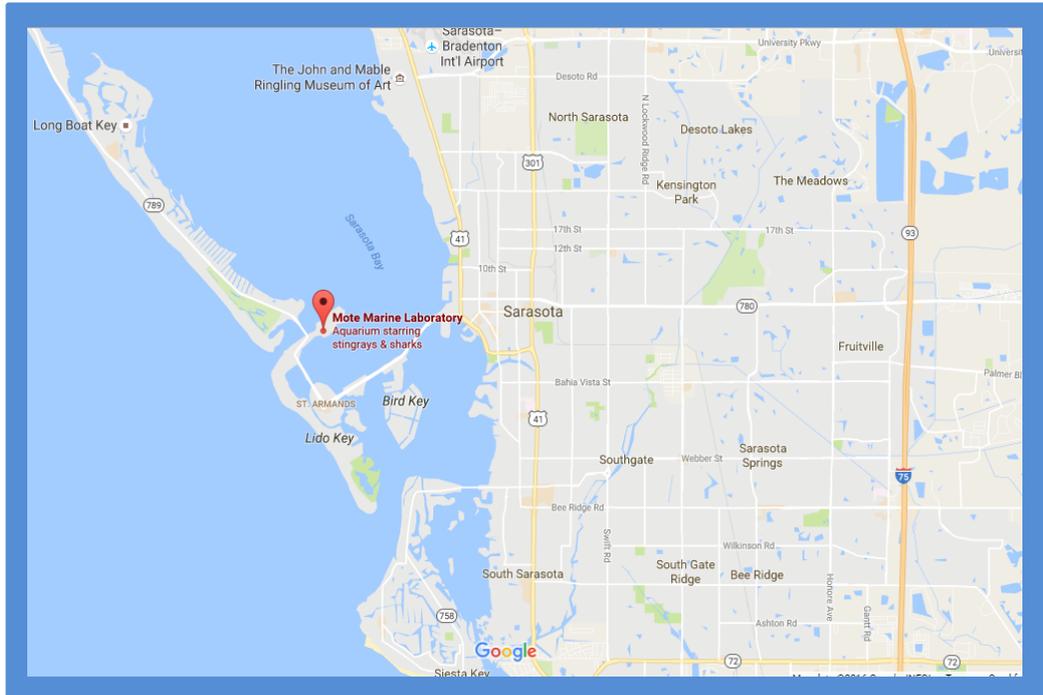
Where: Mote Marine Laboratory's WAVE Center in Sarasota, FL

When: Friday, December 8 – 6:00PM doors open, silent auction/raffle fundraiser and conservation project showcase begins

Admission to this event is free but seating is limited and attendees must RSVP to reserve a seat at: www.vocs.org.

Location and Directions

The 2017 Youth Ocean Conservation Summit will be held at Mote Marine Laboratory. Mote Marine Laboratory is located at 1600 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota, FL 34236. The event will kick-off and conclude in Mote's WAVE Center located on the left side of the main entrance to Mote Aquarium.





2017 Youth Ocean Conservation Summit Overnight Accommodation Options



LaQuinta Inn & Suites – Sarasota

1803 North Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL 34234
Phone: 1-941-366-5128

**Special rate of \$89.10 + tax per
night for standard rooms with 2
double beds if you make a
reservation by November 17,
2017!** Up to four people per room.

Special rate applies for the nights of Friday, December 8 and
Saturday, December 9, 2017

Be sure to call-in your reservation and indicate you're with the
Youth Ocean Conservation Summit to receive the discounted rate!

Groups of youth and adults traveling from out of town may also consider learning more
about local ecosystems in the area by camping at one of the following state parks. For
campground information/reservations visit: www.floridastateparks.org



Oscar Scherer St. Park

1843 S. Tamiami Trail
Osprey, Florida 34229
(941)-483-5956



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