

# YOUTH OCEAN CONSERVATION SUMMIT

2018

## Youth Ocean Conservation Summit Event Program

December 1 • Mote Marine Laboratory • Sarasota, FL

*Empowering the next generation of ocean  
conservationists!*





## **2018 Youth Ocean Conservation Summit Schedule**

### **Saturday, December 1, 2018 – Mote Marine Laboratory**

**8:45-9:25 Registration/Check-in**

**9:30-9:35 Welcome to the Summit and Mote Marine Laboratory**

**9:40-10:25 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**

- Fishing for Funding Presented by Rosemary Mann
- Products with a Purpose Presented by Fin Pin Shop & Planet Love Life
- Coral Restoration: Saving the Florida Reef Tract Presented by Dr. Erin Muller
- Be an Eco-Influencer! Presented by Lisa Moody
- Share Your Passion: The Power of Storytelling in Ocean Protection Presented by Gary Bremen
- Mote Aquarium Exploration

### **2:00-2:50 Workshop Session 2**

- Fishing for Funding Presented by Rosemary Mann
- Products with a Purpose Presented by Fin Pin Shop & Planet Love Life
- Coral Restoration: Saving the Florida Reef Tract Presented by Dr. Erin Muller
- Be an Eco-Influencer! Presented by Lisa Moody
- Share Your Passion: The Power of Storytelling in Ocean Protection Presented by Gary Bremen
- Mote Aquarium Exploration

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

- Drawn to Discovery: Keeping a Field Journal Presented by Alyssa Irizarry & Ryan Sobel
- Tag You're It! Acoustic Technologies used in Marine Research Presented by Kim Bassos-Hull
- Youth Led Water Monitoring with the EarthEcho Water Challenge Presented by Danielle Daly
- Shark Tank – YOCS Presented by Sean Russell
- Political Advocacy and Policy Change Presented by Catherine Uden & Hunter Miller
- Rising Tides: A Teen Panel
- Mote Aquarium Exploration

### **4:10-5:00 Workshop Session 4**

- Drawn to Discovery: Keeping a Field Journal Presented by Alyssa Irizarry & Ryan Sobel
- Tag You're It! Acoustic Technologies used in Marine Research Presented by Kim Bassos-Hull
- Youth Led Water Monitoring with the EarthEcho Water Challenge Presented by Danielle Daly
- Political Advocacy and Policy Change Presented by Catherine Uden & Hunter Miller
- Rising Tides: A Teen Panel
- Mote Aquarium Exploration

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

## 2018 Youth Ocean Conservation Summit

### 9:40-10:25 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:

**Heather Hooper** was born and raised in central Pennsylvania. A marine-centric career wasn't a traditional choice for Heather; but to her it was the only choice. After graduating from Millersville University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, including concentrations in Marine and Environmental Sciences, Heather began her professional career as an Aquarist at the National Aquarium in Baltimore. After a few years there, the currents took Heather down to Florida where she has been with Mote Aquarium since 2011. Over the years her role has expanded from strictly husbandry to now include overseeing the Aquarium's dive operations.



**Amanda Hodo** was born and raised on the south side of Chicago (GO BEARS!). She went to Grinnell College in Iowa and graduated with a B.A. in Biology. She began her career in aquarium husbandry with internships at Mote Aquarium and the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago. Amanda has worked at Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium for nearly 4 years. Some of her favorite duties are breeding fish and scuba diving in the shark exhibit.



**Jenna Rouse** is originally from Wisconsin and joined Mote in 2010. Prior to joining Mote's Animal Hospital Team, she had spent 8 years as a marine mammal trainer at the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, IL and at Dolphin Cove in Key Largo, FL. Over time, her interest in marine life became more focused on the rehabilitation and release aspect of the field. She began her marine animal rehabilitation career with the Marine Mammal Conservancy in Key Largo, FL. Over the years Jenna has gained experience performing veterinary technician duties with small animals, various species of birds, sea turtles, and marine mammals.





## 12:00-1:10 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**

- Fishing for Funding Presented by Rosemary Mann
- Products with a Purpose Presented by Fin Pin Shop & Planet Love Life
- Coral Restoration: Saving the Florida Reef Tract Presented by Dr. Erin Muller
- Share Your Passion: The Power of Storytelling in Ocean Protection Presented by Gary Bremen
- Be an Eco-Influencer! Presented by Lisa Moody
- Mote Aquarium Exploration

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

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

- Drawn to Discovery: Keeping a Field Journal Presented by Alyssa Irizarry & Ryan Sobel
- Tag You're It! Acoustic Technologies used in Marine Research Presented by Kim Bassos-Hull
- Youth Led Water Monitoring with the EarthEcho Water Challenge Presented by Danielle Daly
- Shark Tank – YOCS Presented by Sean Russell
- Political Advocacy and Policy Change Presented by Catherine Uden & Hunter Miller
- Rising Tides: A Teen Panel
- Mote Aquarium Exploration

#### 4:10-5:00 **Workshop Session 4** (Session 3 workshops repeat in Session 4; expect *Shark Tank-YOCS* Presented by Sean Russell)



## **Afternoon Workshops:**

### **Fishing for Funding – Rosemary Mann**

(Offered Session 1 & 2)

Participate in a hands-on creative session on how to raise money and communicate your message to inspire others to join in saving the oceans.

#### **About the Presenter:**

**Rosemary Mann** presently serves as the Director of Philanthropy for The Nature Conservancy's Global Oceans Program. Previously, Rose served as the Assistant Dean of Advancement for the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science and the Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy. Rose has more than 20 years of experience in the field of ocean conservation and fundraising and has raised more than \$100 million for science and ocean protection during her career. Her accomplishments encompass the areas of leadership and development training and has mentored and trained management, faculty, staff, students and volunteers in the fundraising process. A Miami native, Rosemary is a graduate of the University of Miami.



### **Be an Eco-Influencer! – Presented by Lisa Moody**

(Offered Session 1 & 2)



Discuss various ways to build your own brand, create engaging content, and explore various outlets to best promote your conservation projects/ideas. Breakout sessions will give participants a hands-on opportunity to work in teams to create on-site content to share with the group.

#### **About the presenter:**

Ms. Moody is an Emmy-award winning writer and producer, whose wildlife and conservation shows have aired on Discovery Networks, Animal Planet, Nickelodeon, ABC, NBC, CBS, Travel Channel, and more. She teaches production at Ringling College of Art and Design, and founded the All Ringling Television Network (ART Network), a student-driven outlet for original content. She currently serves as Interim Director of Marketing and Digital Strategies for the College and continues to lead her own company, TinWoman Productions, Inc.

### **Products with a Purpose- Presented by Fin Pin Shop & Planet Love Life**

(Offered Session 1 & 2)

The challenges facing our planet's marine ecosystems must be addressed by a diverse coalition of organizations and individuals in order to truly effect change. Through this session, you'll learn about the critical role that businesses can play in developing products to raise awareness and funding to support marine conservation efforts. This engaging session will introduce participants to Fin Pin Shop and Planet Love Life, two companies driven by a passion for marine education and conservation. Students will have a chance to hear their stories, gain key insight to help develop your own products to raise funds to support ocean conservation initiatives, and work in teams on a hands-on project.

## About the Presenters:

**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 Managers 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.

**Yasmin Serajfar** is a wildlife biologist, artist, and small business owner. She obtained her Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Tampa and her Master's degree in Environmental Science from Drexel University. She has spent the past few years working as a full-time wildlife biologist for the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. She is also co-owner of Fin Pin Shop, an online-based business and community advocating love for the ocean through unique ocean-inspired products. These products often donate to research and conservation efforts and promote sustainability. Yasmin believes art plays a powerful role in fostering environmental awareness and creates all her designs with that goal.



As a native Floridian, **Rob Webster** has always loved going to the beach and being near the Atlantic Ocean & Gulf of Mexico. When he's not working, you can usually find Rob in his flip flops cleaning up the tourist filled Florida beaches. A nature and animal lover in his heart, Rob brings his skill set as a successful business owner to the conservation world. Since graduating from the University of South Florida with a degree in business marketing / management, he has created several successful organizations including a event lighting company and professional photography company. Rob has also held positions as a lifeguard and as an international summer camp director.

The Marine Debris Mermaid! **Brittany Webster** is a passionate conservationist and lover of all things from the sea. She sprouted legs just to help clean up the beaches! Prior to forming Planet Love Life, Britt was the Director of Field Studies for an international marine education program in the Bahamas. Britt has a background in experiential education and environmental science and majored in Marine Ecology & Environmental Policy at the University of South Florida. She has a multitude of skills, knowledge and experience in marine ecosystems, field instruction and hands-on group learning techniques. As strong environmental advocate, Brittany frequently participates in volunteer beach clean ups and volunteer projects.



## **Coral Restoration: Saving the Florida Reef Tract – Presented by Dr. Erin**

### **Muller**

(Offered Session 1 & 2)

The Coral Restoration station will provide a brief overview of the need for active coral restoration activities within Florida to preserve this critical ecosystem. Then all participants will learn different techniques to conduct coral fragmentation including creating coral trees for branching corals and microfragmentation for massive coral species. Finally, participants will learn details associated with coral nursery preparation and outplanting of corals; all activities essential for reseeding coral reefs with living coral fragments.

#### **About the presenter:**

**Dr. Erinn Muller** came to Mote Marine Laboratory in 2012 to work in Mote's prestigious Postdoctoral Fellowship Program. Dr. Muller became a Staff Scientist in 2015, and currently serves as Program

Manager for the Coral Disease and Health Program, as well as Science Director for the Elizabeth Moore International Center for Coral Reef Research and Restoration (IC2R3). Dr. Muller has studied coral health and disease for over 15 years, traveling all over the world including the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, the Florida Keys and Saudi Arabia. Dr. Muller's goal in her studies is to determine how coral health and disease change under climate change and ocean acidification conditions, by applying a comprehensive approach that spans from understanding shifts in microbial assemblages of corals, to applying hierarchical spatial and temporal models to understand the drivers causing coral-disease outbreaks. She has been a mentor for over 50 undergraduate interns at Mote, and she has helped co-create a research-based after school program for high school students in the Florida Keys and U.S. Virgin Islands. Dr. Muller currently holds a

role in several organizations, including Treasurer of International Society for Reef Studies, Member of the Acropora Recovery Implementation Team, Member of the Association of Zoos and Aquaria Save Animals From Extinction Acropora working group, Science Advisor for SCUBAnauts International and Courtesy Faculty at the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee. In 2015, she was the single recipient of the International Society for Reef Studies Young Scientists of the Year Award. Prior to joining Mote, Dr. Muller worked for the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Park Service and taught High School Science in Brevard Public Schools.

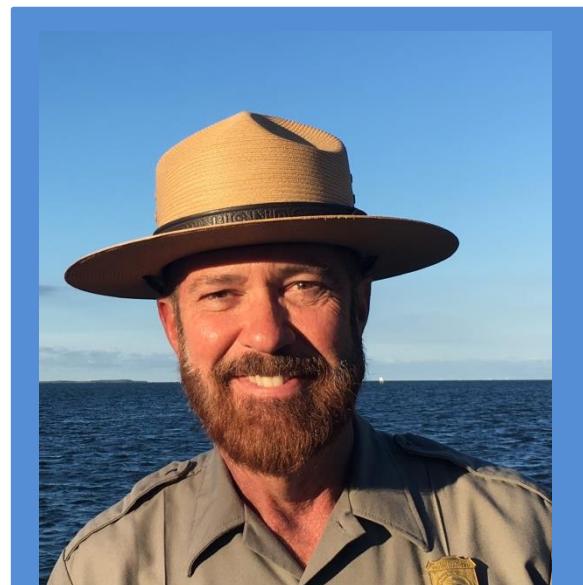
## **Share Your Passion: The Power of Storytelling in Ocean Protection - Presented by Gary Bremen**

(Offered Session 1 & 2)

People love what other people are passionate about. Facts, figures and statistics are important, but being able to tell others WHY you care about the things you love is even more important. Join Ranger Gary to hear his way of showing people why he cares, and get a few tips for ways you can do the same.

#### **About the presenter:**

As a boy growing up in South Florida, Gary Bremen's parents instilled in him an insatiable wanderlust fueled by an equally insatiable curiosity. They took him to places



with names like Yellowstone, Grand Canyon and Carlsbad, and in so doing, set him on a career path as a National Park Ranger. Thirty-two years into that career (with 24 years of that being at Biscayne), he still finds enormous satisfaction in discovering the lesser-known aspects of the world around him. He is a writer, speaker and storyteller whose work has appeared in national magazines, on television, radio and podcasts. He is the recipient of the National Park Service's Freeman Tilden award for excellence in interpretation and the Crystal Owl award for training excellence, as well as a special award from the United States Coral Reef Task Force for his efforts to educate South Floridians about the park and its inhabitants. A proud graduate of the University of Miami, he lives in the little town of Wilton Manors with his husband Roger and their cats Neko, Oliver, and Elliott in an urban oasis filled with native plants and wildlife.

## **Drawn to Discovery: Keeping a Field Journal – Presented by Alyssa Irizarry & Ryan Sobel**

(Offered Session 3 & 4)

Join us for an introduction to keeping a field/nature journal to build skills in natural history, drawing, and science communication. Participants will create pocket sketchbooks, practice a variety of observational drawing techniques, and explore ways that a nature journal can be used to develop environmental conservation projects. No art experience necessary!

### **About the presenters:**



**Alyssa Irizarry** is an artist and director at Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Programs, a nonprofit that engages teens in ocean conservation and advocacy through the arts. Alyssa holds a BA in Art History and Environmental Studies from Tufts University, and has been involved in environmental education for 10 years. Alyssa is passionate about helping students of all ages discover and creatively explore their relationship with the natural world. Her work can be found in California's Monterey Bay Aquarium, on the streets and walls of Salem, Massachusetts, and or online at @lttlelttle.



Atlantic University, specializing in Molecular Biology and Neuroscience. In addition to his academic career, Ryan is a wildlife artist and scientific illustrator, passionate about using his work to promote environmental conservation initiatives. His work has been displayed across the U.S. in museums, aquariums, zoos, and other scientific institutions. He has been inducted into the Ocean Artists Society, as well as served as a Blue Sphere Foundation featured artist.

## **Youth-Led Water Monitoring with the EarthEcho Water Challenge: Citizen Science & Activism – Presented by Danielle Daly**

(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. 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. 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 presenter:

**Danielle Daly** has lived in Florida her entire life, which has fostered her passion for the ocean and protecting it. She is currently a senior at Pine View School. After high school, she plans to study Chemistry with a focus on Environmental Chemistry. Growing up in Sarasota, she has frequented Mote Marine Laboratory since a young age, where she is currently a High School Alumni Intern at Mote. The 2017 Youth Ocean Conservation Summit was the first she attended, where she first came across EarthEcho International. She received a mini grant to purchase test kits, which she uses to regularly monitor local water bodies and talk to clubs and organizations about the importance of water monitoring. Additionally, she is a part of EarthEcho's inaugural class of Water Challenge Ambassadors, a group of 20 individuals from around the world passionate about

water quality.

## Tag You're It! Acoustic Technologies used in Marine Research – Presented by Kim Bassos-Hull

(Offered Session 3 & 4)

Acoustic technologies are an important tool for researchers to gain information about animal movements and seascape soundscapes. This workshop will introduce students to some of these technologies and provide students the opportunity to get hands-on experience. Students will tag and track marine invertebrates (molluscs) and learn how to download and evaluate acoustic data. Sounds in the ocean will also be described with an activity of identifying real sounds recorded in our coastal waters. Fun, hands AND ears-on learning!



#### About the presenter:

**Kim Bassos-Hull** is currently a Senior Biologist with Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, Florida and a Research Associate with the Sarasota Dolphin Research Program (SDRP). Kim heads up the Spotted Eagle Ray Conservation Program at Mote (since 2009) and works closely with Mote's Education Program as a research mentor (specifically the High School Intern Program) since 2007. Kim's research project on spotted eagle rays has provided important information on their biology, behavior, and fisheries impacts in Florida, Mexico, and Cuba and in more recent years her research has expanded to include mobulid rays (manta and devil rays). Currently Kim is investigating movement patterns and diet in spotted eagle rays using acoustic telemetry and molecular techniques. Besides her research with rays, Kim has been studying dolphin populations off the southwest coast of Florida with the SDRP since 1990. Kim Co-Chairs the Florida Marine Debris Reduction Plan's Wildlife and Habitats Impacts Group - working on

solutions to reduce impacts on our wildlife. One of Kim's career goals is to connect research and education in order to inspire conservation action.

## **Shark Tank – YOCS - Presented by Sean Russell**

(Offered Session 3)

Are you looking to gain skills in communicating your conservation efforts while securing funding to grow the impact of your work? This first of its kind, YOCS session will provide participants with the opportunity to learn how to develop a compelling story and message to share their conservation work with potential partners and funders. During the session students will have the opportunity to develop and deliver a pitch for their projects to a panel of marine conservation experts for a chance to win a \$100 grant to support your conservation work.

### **About the presenter:**

**Sean Russell** has dedicated his professional career to empowering young people with the tools and motivation they need to become involved in leadership initiatives. After graduating from the University of Florida in 2013 with a Bachelor's degree in Biology, Sean has worked with a diverse set of corporations, government agencies, and non-profit organizations to elevate the roll of youth leadership in the fields of marine science, education, and conservation. Sean is the founder and director of the Youth Ocean Conservation Summit, an annual event held at Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, FL which is also modeled in cities across the United States in partnership with conservation organizations. Through this program, Sean works to empower young people with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to address ocean conservation issues in their local communities. Currently Sean serves as the Program Manager for the EarthEcho Water Challenge, a global citizen science program that has activated over 1.5 million youth and community members to monitor water quality and take action to protect water resources in 146 countries. He also works with SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment where he coordinates the SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Youth Advisory Council. Previously Sean has served in roles leading hands on marine education, conservation, and research programs with Mote Marine Laboratory and Georgia Sea Grant. Sean is a member of the National Marine Educators Association Board of Directors, and a former member of the State Farm Youth Advisory Board, and the Board of Directors of Youth Service America and the Florida 4-H Foundation. He is a recipient of the Brower Youth Award, Peter Benchley Ocean Award, and Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Blue Dolphin Award for his conservation work. In his spare time Sean enjoys hiking, kayaking, SCUBA diving, traveling, and photography.



## **Political Advocacy and Policy Change Presented by Catherine Uden & Hunter Miller**

(Offered Session 3 & 4)

Catherine Uden and Hunter Miller, of Oceana, will lead a session focused on political advocacy/policy change as it relates to ocean conservation work. These advocacy skills can be applied at the government level and/or by working with local businesses/restaurants. They will cover topics such as making restaurants environmentally friendly, to passing local ordinances or winning local campaigns, to influencing state laws, and campaigning for federal policies. Skills will include identifying a campaign, choosing your strategy, identifying key targets, and navigating our legislative system. Catherine Uden and Hunter Miller will also give a brief overview of their current Oceana campaigns, and the work that they do to achieve victories. The goal of this session is to empower our next generation of ocean activists and grassroots organizers.



### About the presenters:

**Catherine Uden** is the Campaign Organizer for Oceana in South Florida. She has been involved in ocean and coastal conservation in South Florida for over 10 years. She has experience in campaign management and grassroots organizing leading successful campaigns to reduce plastic pollution, protect coastal habitat and ensure public beach access. Most recently, she served as Chair of the Surfrider Foundation Broward County Chapter, and has been a strong coalition partner in Oceana's work to stop seismic airgun blasting and offshore drilling in the Atlantic. She is grateful for the opportunity to continue to protect our beautiful beaches, waves, coral reefs, and marine life in South Florida with Oceana. Catherine has a passion for educating others, especially our youth, about ocean conservation issues. She has 15 years of experience as a teacher in the Broward County Public School System. Catherine received a P3 Eco Challenge Award for Environmental Stewardship in her school. Through her work as an educator, she has worked with youth

environmental clubs, taught environmental activism, trained youth in engaging with city sustainability boards and lawmakers, and collaborated with the next generation of ocean advocates at the Youth Ocean Conservation Summit in Sarasota. Her passion for the ocean comes from her background as a stand-up paddleboarder. She has developed a love and appreciation for marine animals, and for protecting Florida waters from plastic pollution. Sponsored by BOGA Paddleboards, she races, stand-up paddle board surfs, teaches others to paddle, leads stand-up paddle board waterway cleanups, and explores the ocean with her husband and two sons. Catherine believes strongly in a quote by David Suzuki, "unless we are willing to encourage our children to reconnect with and appreciate the natural world, we can't expect them to help protect and care for it."

**Hunter Miller** is Oceana's Campaign Organizer for Southwest Florida. Before joining Oceana in 2017, he was an organizer with Environmental Youth Council in Northeast Florida where he worked on climate change and sea level rise education, led campaigns to stop pollution in Florida rivers, and helped craft the Young Riverkeeper program for the Matanzas Riverkeeper. He led the campaign in his community to engage and educate citizens and local elected officials about the threats of seismic airgun blasting and offshore drilling in the Atlantic to coastal communities. As a result, the city of St. Augustine and St. Johns County passed resolutions of opposition which became blueprints for municipalities across Florida to stand up to the oil industry. Hunter is a sixth-generation Floridian and has always had a connection to its waters. As an avid fisherman, surfer and paddler he found his love and appreciation for our oceans and believes it is his moral obligation to conserve, heal and protect the waters which have given him so much. Hunter has a degree in Public Administration from Flagler College in St Augustine, FL. When he is not organizing for the environment, you can find him in the nearest body of water with his partner Jaryn and dog, Baxter.



## **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.

**Emma Gould**



**Morgan Meyer**



**Lauren France**



**Will Halbert**



**Noah Fischer**



## **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 & outdoor galleries, visit our large shark exhibits and 2 touch tanks.

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



## 2018 Youth Ocean Conservation Film Competition

Are you an aspiring filmmaker? Is there an ocean conservation issue that you want to share with others? All students in grades preschool-college are invited to take part in the 2018 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 2018 Community Ocean Conservation Film Festival, which will be held on November 30 at Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, FL. Winners will also receive exciting prizes!

Visit [www.yocs.org](http://www.yocs.org) to download the contest rules and video submission instructions! Deadline for video submissions is October 31, 2018. Good luck!



# *2018 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 2018 Youth Ocean Conservation Summit weekend!

This year's event will feature a special screening of the film *Sea of Hope*. *Sea of Hope* follows the inspiring journey of Oceanographer Dr. Sylvia Earle, National Geographic photographer Brian Skerry, Author & Historian Maxwell Kennedy and a team of young environmentalists as they travel to America's Ocean hotspots to showcase the hidden ecosystems beneath the waves with a goal of inspiring people around the world to protect these amazing natural wonders.

You'll leave inspired by their journey and ready to take action to protect our underwater treasures!

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.

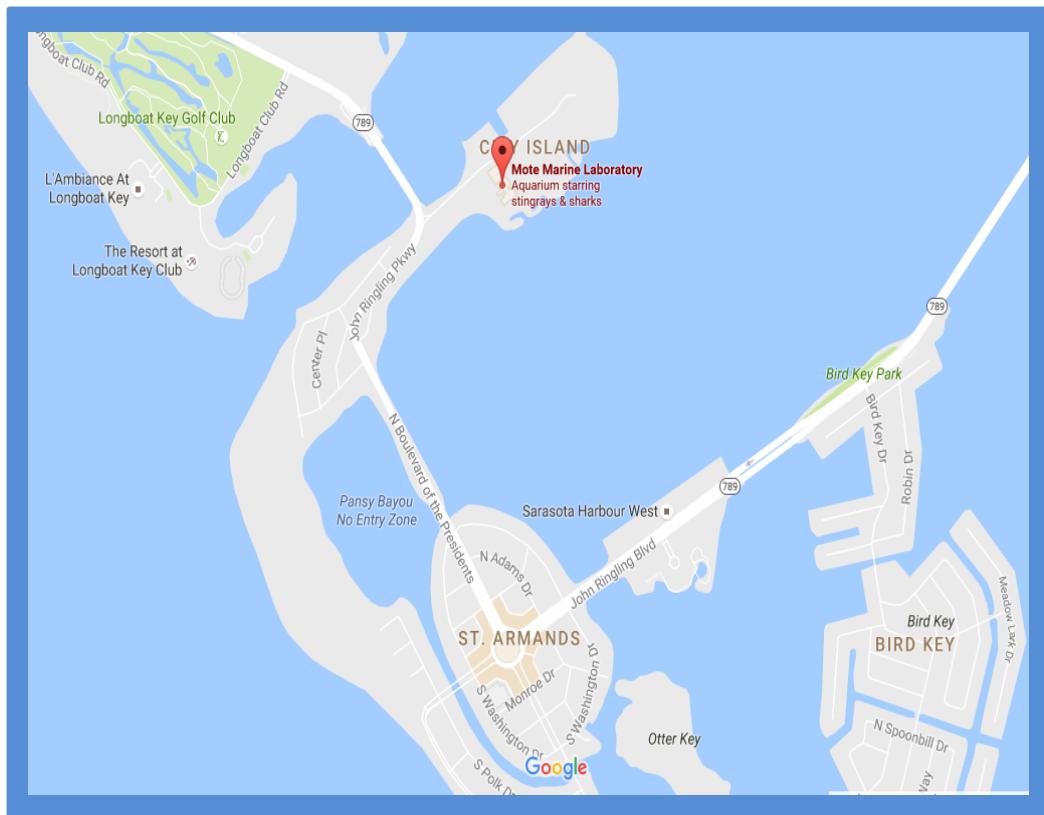
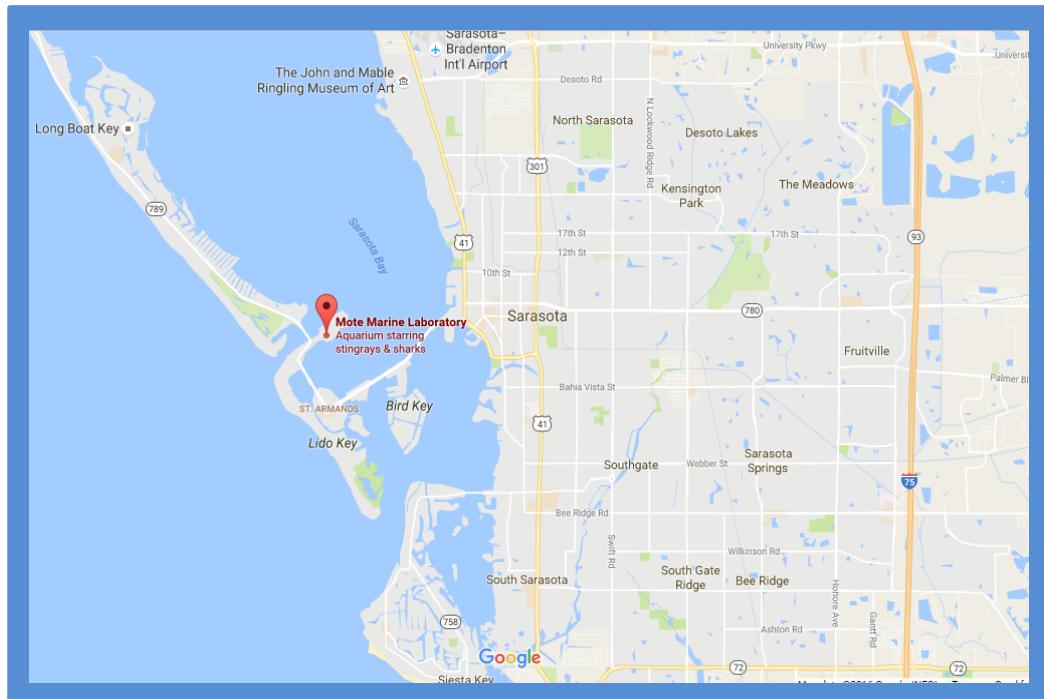
**Where:** Mote Marine Laboratory's WAVE Center in Sarasota, FL

**When:** Friday, November 30 – 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.yocs.org](http://www.yocs.org).**

## Location and Directions

The 2018 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.





## 2018 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 16, 2018! Up to four people per room.**

Special rate applies for the nights of Friday, November 30th and Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018

**To make your reservation, call 1-866-527-1498 and identify yourself as part of the YOCS-2018 block (Reservation Block Confirmation Number: 7712576)**

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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](http://www.floridastateparks.org)



**Oscar Scherer St. Park**  
1843 S. Tamiami Trail  
Osprey, Florida 34229  
(941)-483-5956



**Myakka River St. Park**  
13208 State Road 72  
Sarasota, Florida  
(941)-362-6511