



OCEAN CONNECTORS

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WELCOME TO OCEAN CONNECTORS!

Ocean Connectors is an award-winning nonprofit environmental education program that provides hands-on ocean conservation 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 Pacific coastal environment.* Students learn fascinating information about ocean animals and their habitats through classroom presentations, journaling, and coastal field trips (see Program Summary page for more information). Ocean Connectors supports Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards while inspiring youth to practice coastal stewardship.

The goal of the Ocean Connectors User Guide is to make our marine science curriculum easy to apply and use in the classroom. This User Guide contains everything needed to help teachers implement the Ocean Connectors programs, and *all materials are also available online at oceanconnectors.org/resources.*

We sincerely appreciate your participation in our programs, and have just a few simple requests for teachers:

- **Add our @oceanconnectors.org email addresses to your Trusted/Safe Sender list.** Close contact is needed between teachers and the 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.
- **You will receive a box of student journals to use for Ocean Connectors assignments.** Keep the box in your classroom and feel free to use the journals for ocean science lessons throughout the year, but do not allow students to take their journals home unless they are moving to a different school.
- **All students must submit a Liability Release Form signed by a parent or guardian in order to attend the Ocean Connectors field trip.** This form can be found inside the User Guide as well as online. It is the teacher's responsibility to ensure that every student turns in a signed Liability Release. Forms will be collected by the Ocean Connectors instructors at the start of the 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.** The teacher's help is needed 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.
- **Teachers are one of the biggest influences in a child's life, so it is important that you try to demonstrate sustainable behaviors.** Please review our list of 10 Ways to be an Environmental Role Model to ensure you are role-modeling earth-friendly behaviors in your classroom.
- **Please follow along with Ocean Connectors on [social media](#) to help us grow our online audience.** Ocean Connectors does not encourage our students to use social media. Instead, students can visit the Ocean Connectors website to view photos and leave comments.
- **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.

*Ocean Connectors is a fiscal sponsorship project of
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www.oceanconnectors.org