



November Newsletter



Fishing station during B-WET program. Photo: Jessie Frayser /NOAA

[Monitor National Marine Sanctuary Resources](#)



<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/media/docs/202104-mnms-climate-impacts-profile.pdf>

NOAA RESOURCE

Click here for [Pumpkin Carving Templates from NOAA](#)

3rd Annual STEM Exploration Community Event

Monitor National Marine Sanctuary had the opportunity to host a booth at the 3rd Annual STEM Exploration Community Event held at the Brooks Crossing Innovation and Opportunity Center in Newport News. This event was coordinated by Betsy McAllister, the Hampton City Schools STEM teacher specialist and educator in residence for National Institute of Aerospace (NIA). Other major sponsors of this event were NASA eClips and NASA SPOTLITE, as well as NIA's Center for Integrative STEM Education.

Roughly 40 exhibitors and vendors were present for the event, ready to engage students and families in hands-on activities or displays related to STEM. At our booth, we focused on exploration and investigation of the ocean floor. Students between Kindergarten and 6th grade were the primary age group that visited the booth and were able to engage with maritime exploration through an ocean floor activity, buoyancy experiments and an engaging look at the role of a diver. The table began with magnifiers amplifying shells, coral and barnacles to help support kids' critical thinking skills as they brainstormed other things that could be explored and mapped on the ocean floor. Students were able to see a model of a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) and could put on some of the gear divers wear when exploring. The biggest hit for all ages was when students were able to write underwater on "special paper" just like a diver would use. The most rewarding thing as an educator is when multiple kids leave saying, "Maybe I will be a diver when I grow up."





Planting station during B-WET program. Photo: Jessie Frayser /NOAA



Planting station during B-WET program. Photo: Jessie Frayser /NOAA



Water quality station during B-WET program. Photo: Jessie Frayser/NOAA

Another successful B-WET Program

This October, Monitor National Marine Sanctuary (MNMS) participated in the Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program hosted and run by The Mariners' Museum and Park. In 2021, a grant was awarded by NOAA allowing the museum to teach 9th grade students throughout Newport News about the environment and watersheds. Science educators conduct these lessons in three stages. The first stage consists of classroom visits where students receive a tank and grasses to grow as a class to mimic the grasses they will eventually plant in the Mariner's Lake. The second phase is when MNMS is able to support the work of B-WET, when students come to the park at the museum to participate in three stations dealing with water quality and stewardship.

This year, the park hosted six high schools from around Newport News in two, 90-minute sessions over six days. Each session consists of three stations. One station allows students to dress in waders and takes them into the lake to plant grasses. Another is centered around testing lake samples for things such as temperature, turbidity, salinity, and dissolved oxygen levels. The third station, proudly run by MNMS, teaches students about the species of fish found in the lake and river. It also connects the water quality work of the first two stations to the environmental effects on fish in fresh and salt water.

Many students indicated they had never been fishing before, but after a brief casting demonstration, almost all were able to catch at least one "fish" out of our makeshift Mariners' Lake. The activity is then summarized by a debrief allowing the students to reflect on the meaning of endangered and invasive species identified by the fish they caught.

The program will conclude with a last visit to the classroom where the students will graph data, participate in a virtual reality dive to the *USS Monitor's* shipwreck, and have a discussion on environmental and maritime related careers.



Fishing station during B-WET program. Photo: Jessie Frayser/NOAA

Grant and Professional Development Opportunities

EPA

Under the Environmental Education Grants Program, EPA seeks grant applications from eligible applicants to support environmental education projects that promote environmental awareness and stewardship and help provide people with the skills to take responsible actions to protect the environment. This grant program provides financial support for projects that design, demonstrate, and/or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques.

The Office of Environmental Education will also host at least one webinar during the open solicitation period on how to write a competitive application and to address commonly asked questions. Once confirmed, webinar registration details will be available on

<https://www.epa.gov/education/grants#webinar>.

Applications are due on November 8, 2023

SOURCE: NOAA Fisheries

[REEF Educator in the Field Fellowship](#)

The REEF Educator in the Field Fellowship is an exciting professional development opportunity for formal and informal educators to gain hands-on experience with ocean citizen science. The Fellowship is awarded annually, and enables one or more qualified educator to participate in a REEF Field Survey Trip. They will join other citizen scientist volunteers to learn about marine life and conduct fish population surveys while scuba diving or snorkeling as part of the REEF Volunteer Fish Survey Project. Following the Field Survey Trip, the Fellow will stay involved as a member of the REEF Education Advisory Panel.

Applications will close January 1, 2024.

[Every Kid Outdoors Small Grants Program](#)

In partnership with the USDA Forest Service, National Park Trust is thrilled to announce the 2024 cycle of the Every Kid Outdoors Small Grants Program. This grant supports the needs of non-profits and schools connecting elementary school-aged youth to public parks, lands, and waters.

Applications are being accepted from U.S.-based 501c3 nonprofit organizations and schools that serve elementary school-aged students.

Deadline is November 30.

[Deep Dive into Ocean Exploration Technologies: Online Professional Learning Event](#)

Educators and the general public are invited to join NOAA Ocean Exploration in a live, online professional learning event this November. Join us to learn about the vast arena of modern ocean technologies used to explore our deep and open ocean. Bring your questions for the opportunity to have them answered live, by ocean exploration technology experts that have worked with and had a hand in designing modern exploration systems used to study the biology, geology, chemistry and physics of our global ocean. After the interview, we'll briefly explore online resources that are available for educators to bring information and activities highlighting innovative ocean technology into the classroom.

- **November 7 | 5:30 PM EST/4:30 CST/3:30 MST/2:30 PST/1:30 AKST/12:30 HST**
- **November 9 | 3:30 PM HST/4:30 AKST/5:30 PST/6:30 MST/7:30 CST/8:30 EST**

[Register today](#) for the date and time that best suits your schedule.

This event is focused on educators of grades 6-12, but all are welcome to attend!