

**VERY EXCITING NEWS!** NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is embarking on a new initiative to explore the economic value of the Ocean Guardian School program. To this end, the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries has created a voluntary survey for the **parents/guardians** of your Ocean Guardian students.

**YOUR INVOLVEMENT:** We are reaching out to *all* current Ocean Guardian Lead Teachers to coordinate the dissemination of this survey to the parents of the Ocean Guardian School students in this year's participating schools. You will be provided with the specific emails and/or hard-copy surveys to distribute to your select group of parents. For those schools with more than 100 participating students, you will receive clear instructions on how to randomly select 100 students whose parents will receive the survey. We understand with the school year coming to a close you are extremely busy and we would like to offer you a small stipend, of \$100, as a token of our appreciation for your valuable time and energy in helping us to collect this important data.

**STEP 1:** For more information about the survey and your involvement in this initiative, we are asking *every* Lead Teacher to participate in a webinar either on **April 26 or April 29 from 4 – 5 pm PT**. Please let me know if you are unable to attend either one of these two webinars, and we will schedule another call with you at your convenience.

Please register for either webinar on the following links:

Seaberry and I are very grateful to you for your critical support with this special undertaking. Needless to say, we are very excited that the Ocean Guardian School program is the focus of this federal initiative, and we look forward to learning more about how we can create an even stronger Ocean Guardian School program.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions.  
Many thanks,  
Naomi

## Directions to Teachers

Thank you for your assistance. To accurately select a random sample follow the directions below.

1. Identify the list of students who are involved in Ocean Guardian. (Do not presort this list).
2. Take the total number of students and divide by 100. For example, if you have 900 students in your program, divide by 100 and you will get '9'.
  - a. If you get an odd number, round up to the nearest whole number. So if your number is 1.2, please use the number 2 to count off the list.
3. Count every 9<sup>th</sup> student on your list and create a new list with every 9<sup>th</sup> student. Do this until you have 100 names. It may be possible that you must start at the top of the list again and count through again.
4. Once the new list has been populated with 100 names, start at the top of the list and assign each student the number, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, consecutively. Starting at 1 again each time the number 5 is assigned to a student. When this step is completely, 20 students should be assigned to each number.
5. The number 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 you assigned the student is the version of the survey they will receive. (There are 5 versions of the survey and this is only relevant to the second and third mailings you will be sending them --- both of these letters will contain a link to the survey. It is very important that each student be sent home with the version of the survey they were randomly assigned).

Dear Parent,

As we near the end of the school year, I would like to inform you about an exciting study in which our school has been asked to participate. As you may know, this year **NAME OF SCHOOL** participated in the Ocean Guardian School program. This means the school received funding from NOAA's Office of the National Marine Sanctuaries to support our ocean stewardship activities.

The Ocean Guardian School program awards grants to K-12 public, private and charter schools to carry out hands-on projects that help protect the health of our watersheds and ocean. For more information about this program, please go to: [http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education/ocean\\_guardian/](http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education/ocean_guardian/).

During the year, your child may have received extra lessons related to environmental conservation and stewardship and/or participated in class projects such as recycling, removing invasive species, removing marine debris or planting native vegetation. Studies have shown that hands-on, experiential learning techniques have been shown to increase interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), help reinforce an ethic of responsible citizenship and promote academic achievement.

**In the next week or so, I will be sending home another letter with your student asking you to go online and complete a short survey about you and your child's experience (no matter how great or small) with the Ocean Guardian School program.**

Although your participation and completion of the survey is completely voluntary, please know that your input is extremely valuable to the research team. Your information will help to improve your child's Ocean Guardian experience and make similar experiences available to students across the county

If you have any questions, please contact **Sylvia Hitz** at [sylvia.hitz@noaa.gov](mailto:sylvia.hitz@noaa.gov) or **Danielle Schwarzmann** [Danielle.schwarzmann@noaa.gov](mailto:Danielle.schwarzmann@noaa.gov) .

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

**Teacher's Name**

Dear Parent,

Last week I sent a letter home with your child letting you know that we would be sending home another note with a link to a short, online survey about you and your child's experiences (no matter how great or small) with the Ocean Guardian School program.

Please go to this link to complete the survey:

**XXXX Link**

**XXXX Password**

As you may recall, this year our school received funding from NOAA's Ocean Guardian School program to support our ocean stewardship activities. The Ocean Guardian School program awards grants to K-12 public, private and charter schools to carry out hands-on projects that help protect the health of our watersheds and ocean. For more detailed information about the program, please go to:

[http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education/ocean\\_guardian/](http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education/ocean_guardian/).

As I previously mentioned, although this survey is completely voluntary, your input is extremely valuable to the research team. Your information will help to improve your child's Ocean Guardian experience and make similar experiences available to students across the county

If you have any questions, please contact **Sylvia Hitz** at [sylvia.hitz@noaa.gov](mailto:sylvia.hitz@noaa.gov) or **Danielle Schwarzmann** [Danielle.schwarzmann@noaa.gov](mailto:Danielle.schwarzmann@noaa.gov).

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

**Teacher's Name**

Dear Parent,

Last week I sent a letter home with a link to a short, online survey about you and your child's experience (no matter how great or small) with the Ocean Guardian School program. If you have already completed the survey, thank you for your time and effort and please disregard this letter. If you have not yet had a chance to complete this survey, please go to this link to complete the survey:

**XXXX Link**

**XXXX Password**

As mentioned previously, this survey is completely voluntary. However, your information will help to improve your child's Ocean Guardian experience at school and make similar experiences available to students across the country. If you would like to receive a paper copy of the survey to complete, please return this letter requesting a paper copy of the survey.

If you have any questions, please contact **Sylvia Hitz** at [sylvia.hitz@noaa.gov](mailto:sylvia.hitz@noaa.gov) or **Danielle Schwarzmann** [Danielle.schwarzmann@noaa.gov](mailto:Danielle.schwarzmann@noaa.gov).

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

**Teachers Name**

Dear Parent,

We wanted to thank you for the time and effort you took to complete the survey about you and your child's experience with the Ocean Guardian Program. Your responses will help us to improve the Ocean Guardian Program and its impact on your child.

Sincerely,