

NOAA'S TEACHER AT SEA PROGRAM

Bringing Hands-on Research to the Classroom



Our Mission

The mission of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Teacher at Sea program is to give teachers a clearer insight into our ocean planet, a greater understanding of maritime work and studies, and to increase their level of environmental literacy by fostering an interdisciplinary research experience. The program provides a unique environment for learning and teaching by sending kindergarten through college-level teachers to sea aboard NOAA research and survey ships to work under the tutelage of scientists and crew. Then, armed with new understanding and experience, teachers bring this knowledge back to their classrooms. Indeed, the greatest payoff of NOAA's Teacher at

Sea program is the enthusiasm for learning about our ocean planet generated between teachers and students.

Since its inception in 1990, NOAA's Teacher at Sea program has enabled more than 460 teachers to gain first-hand experience of science at sea. By participating in this program, it becomes possible for teachers to enrich their classroom curricula with a depth of understanding made possible by living and working side-by-side, day and night, with those who contribute to the world's body of oceanic and atmospheric scientific knowledge.

Teachers may select a cruise aboard one of NOAA's participating ships, which conduct three main types of research: fisheries research; oceanographic and atmospheric research;



NOAA Teacher at Sea, Melissa Fye, en route to assist at a dive site in Hawaiian waters.

and hydrographic surveys. For more information on these cruises, please visit our Web site, listed below.

Criteria For Selection

Though most teachers take advantage of NOAA's Teacher at Sea program during the summer, cruises are available throughout most of the year on a space-available basis. Cruises range from approximately one week to one month. Teachers on sabbatical may have the option to go on an extended

cruise; in recent years, teachers have participated in cruises going to Australia, Japan, and Chile.

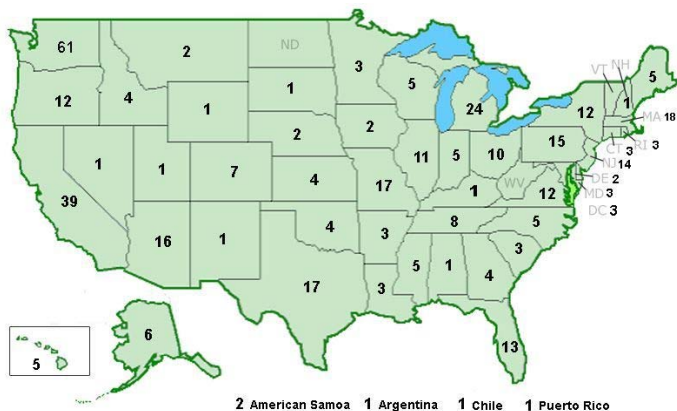
The application for NOAA's Teacher at Sea program is available at <http://teacheratsea.noaa.gov>. It requires you to submit two recommendation

letters, a health questionnaire, and most importantly, to discuss how you foresee applying your at-sea experience to your curriculum.

To be considered for becoming a NOAA Teacher at Sea, you will be expected to:

health as determined by a completed medical history and **have passed a TB test within 12 months of the sailing date.**

- Be currently employed as a K-12 or college teacher.
- Have a unique ability to communicate complicated information to students, with special interest in NOAA-related science.
- Have a principal/supervisor/department head who is supportive of your endeavor.
- Have superior English language ability (dual language ability is a plus).
- Be comfortable with travel and have no aversions to traveling by airplane or ship.
- Be computer literate.



Geographical distribution of NOAA Teachers at Sea

More than 460 teachers have been sent to sea by NOAA's Teacher at Sea program.

For More Information Visit <http://teacheratsea.noaa.gov>

NOAA's Teacher at Sea alumni represent 47 states and 4 other countries.

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Giving Back as a NOAA Teacher at Sea



NOAA Teacher at Sea, Phil Hertzog, explores Alaskan shores.

Teachers must be willing to fulfill several program requirements during and upon completion of their cruise:

- Submit 2 to 3 logs per week and take digital photographs while at sea.
- Submit a unit of lessons (6 to 8) based on your experiences at sea. (We encourage teachers to employ creative ways to tell their stories. For example, some teachers

have created video documentaries and/or Web sites—the choice is yours.)

- Submit an article for publication OR conduct a presentation about your cruise at an educators' conference or for colleagues.
- Submit a post-cruise evaluation.
- Submit a final travel voucher for reimbursement.

"By being a Teacher at Sea I'm bringing back enthusiasm for the application of science in the real world. I want my students to know that life is not a collection of things, but a collection of *experiences*. My under-lying goal is to teach my students that learning should be a life-long adventure! And isn't that what this trip is really all about?"

—Melissa Fye, Virginia middle school teacher

Benefits for All

The benefits of NOAA's Teacher at Sea Program are substantial:

- Scientists, NOAA Corps officers, and crew gain motivated volunteers to help carry out their projects, and all onboard enjoy hosting someone who is enthusiastic and eager to learn about each aspect of the cruise.
- Students are exposed to marine careers through

teachers' stories and photos or video from their cruise.

- Teachers and their students gain a greater awareness of the need to understand and protect the world's oceans and their resources.



NOAA Teacher at Sea, Tom Nassif, assists divers in Atlantic waters during a study to investigate the Lionfish, an invasive species.

"It was an amazing adventure that I would do again in a heartbeat!"

— Maryland elementary school teacher, Kimberly Eubanks

NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

NOAA's Teacher at Sea program is coordinated and administered by NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO). OMAO operates, manages and maintains the NOAA fleet of ships and aircraft in support of NOAA's mission to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our nation's economic, social, and environmental needs. OMAO is composed of civilians, wage mariners, and the officers of the NOAA Commissioned Corps, one of the nation's seven uniformed services. (www.oma.noaa.gov)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a Department of Commerce agency, conducts research and gathers data about the global oceans, atmosphere, space, and sun, and applies this knowledge to science and service that touch the lives of all Americans. NOAA warns of dangerous weather, charts our seas and skies, guides our use and protection of ocean and coastal resources, and conducts research to improve our understanding and stewardship of the environment that sustains us all. For further information please contact NOAA Office of Public Affairs, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW, Room 6217, Washington, D.C. 20230. Phone: (202) 482-6090. (www.noaa.gov)

All necessary travel costs are paid for by NOAA's Teacher at Sea program. While airfare is paid for up front by the government, all other costs are reimbursed.

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