



2013 Application for Down Under, Out Yonder
Coral Reef Teacher Training Workshop
July 12-17, 2013



Gulf of Mexico Foundation Program in Partnership with
Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

Submit to: Gulf of Mexico Foundation
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Application Deadline: March 8, 2013

Workshop fee of **\$250** is due **AFTER** acceptance to the program.

PLEASE FILL IN ALL BLANKS ON PAGES 1, 5, 6, and 7.

1. PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____

Preferred Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work Email: _____

Personal Email: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Name of School or Organization: _____

City, State of School or Organization: _____

Grades and Subjects Taught or Target Audiences Reached: _____

Approximate Number of Students You Teach or Approximate Number of
Individuals Reached in a Year:
(This is for our records ONLY; we are looking for quality as much, or more
than, quantity.) _____



PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

- Have you participated in this program before? What year?
- Where did you hear about this program (i.e. specific listserve, friend, etc.)?
- Before this announcement, had you ever heard about the Gulf of Mexico Foundation? If yes, in what capacity?
- Before this announcement, had you ever heard about Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary? If yes, in what capacity?

2. THE SELECTION PROCESS:

This is a competitive application process where new applicants will be given priority.

Applications will be reviewed (with applicant names blacked out) and rated by a committee of four people. Only one of them will be an educator by profession, so remember to limit buzzwords. For example, most non-educators will not know what “integrated classroom” means.

After the committee ranks all of the applications, the Gulf of Mexico Foundation dive team will review the full workshop applicants for dive experience, beginning with the highest ranking. If the team determines that an applicant’s dive experience is insufficient to comfortably dive the Flower Garden Banks, the application will be removed from consideration.

The top 18 workshop candidates will be placed on the roster first. Candidates 19-22 will be listed as alternates. **All candidates will be notified of their selection by April 1, 2013.**

All selected workshop candidates will be required to submit a medical history form and a physical examination form (including a mandatory electrocardiogram (ECG/EKG), chest x-ray, and blood tests). All physical examinations and forms must be completed and signed by a physician between July 12, 2012 and July 12, 2013 (chest x-ray after July 12, 2009 (4 years)).

The Gulf of Mexico Foundation reserves the right to disqualify any candidate based on the results of the physical, medical history and/or insufficient dive experience.



3. REQUIRED ESSAY:

Briefly describe how you plan to incorporate the knowledge and skills you expect to gain from this field experience into your current curriculum. Essays must have 1.0 inch margins at the top, bottom and on each side. The type size should be clear, readily legible, and must not be smaller than 10 point. The essay must not go over a 1-single-spaced, typed page.

We know it is difficult to be specific when you have not yet had the course, but if you have ideas for specific activities or approaches, please list them. **Remember, the essay is the primary basis for selection to this workshop.**

At a minimum, you should address the following questions:

- If you teach science, do you currently have a marine unit? If so, how will you use this experience to enhance your existing unit(s)? Be as specific as possible.
- If you teach a marine science/biology class, does it include coral reef ecosystems? If so, how will you use this experience to enhance your existing unit(s)?
- If you have no marine or coral reef unit(s), do you expect to develop one as a result of this experience? How long will the unit be?
- Will you be working with teachers of other subjects to incorporate your new knowledge into their programs as well?
- If you are NOT a science teacher, how will you incorporate this experience into the subject(s) you teach? Will you be working with science teachers to incorporate your knowledge into their units as well as your own?
- If you do not teach in a traditional classroom setting, how often will you use the knowledge of coral reef ecosystems and issues you gain through this experience? Are you willing to commit to giving a specific number of Flower Garden Banks programs at your facility, or in other schools/facilities? How many?

Please attach a typed response to your application.

THIS PAGE DOES NOT NEED TO BE RETURNED
WITH YOUR APPLICATION.



4. DIVE CONDITIONS WARNING--PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

Diving conditions at the Flower Garden and Stetson Banks range from fairly easy to quite difficult, primarily because of the unpredictability of weather, sea states, and ocean currents. The standard entry from these vessels is a giant stride from 5-6 feet above the water's surface. Diving depths range from about 55 feet to 130 feet. Visibility ranges anywhere from 30 ft. to 120 ft.; the average is about 70-90 ft. in July.

You may experience currents moving in different directions and at varying strengths as you descend. Local currents may change directions mid-way through your dive. This is not a drift dive; you will be required to get yourself back to the boat.

Wave action ranges from 1-8 foot seas. **In July, 4-foot seas are the norm. Exiting the water by climbing the ladder at the boat's stern is often quite difficult.** Surface currents range from 0 to 3+ knots. On this trip, if wave height is greater than 6 ft., or current velocity greater than 1.5 knots, diving will most likely be postponed.

The use of dive computers will be **required** for all dives. If you do not own your own dive computer, please be sure to rent one for the trip.

All dives are optional (if you're not certain you can handle it, don't do it). The boat captain and Gulf of Mexico Foundation dive master reserve the right to cancel or postpone diving based on their assessment of diver skills and environmental conditions. **Their word is law and is based on extensive experience.**

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Name: _____

5. DIVE EXPERIENCE:

Please list all current dive certifications (including CPR, First Aid, Nitrox, etc.)

Ex: Basic open water PADI April 2010

Certification Type	Certifying Agency	Date

Self Assessment: (Please indicate the appropriate answer.)

How do you rate yourself as a diver? On a scale from 1-10, 1 being a very novice and inexperienced and 10 being an very advanced and experienced diver.

Have you ever run out of air during a dive? Yes / No

How would you rate your proficiency with a dive computer?
 Very Experienced Somewhat Experienced Novice

Have you ever locked up a dive computer due to the profile you dove? Yes / No

Have you ever been treated in a Hyperbaric Chamber for a dive related accident?
 Yes / No

Have you ever experienced symptoms of Decompression Sickness (DCS)? Yes / No

Have you ever experienced near-drowning, gas embolism or pulmonary barotraumas?
 Yes / No

If you answered Yes to any of the previous questions please provide details:



Name: _____

Total Number of Dives: _____ Date of Last Dive: _____

Number of Dives in Last 12 months: _____

Number of Dives in Last 5 years: _____

How many of these were conducted in the open ocean? _____
If none, when was your last open ocean dive? _____

Maximum Dive Depth: _____ Maximum Dive Depth in last 12 months: _____

Please indicate the approximate number of dives completed in all areas in which you have some diving experience:

_____ Saltwater	_____ Visibility >20'	_____ Depth 0-60'	_____ Large Boat (>=70')
_____ Fresh water	_____ Visibility 1-20'	_____ Depth 61-100'	_____ Small Boat (<70')
_____ Aquarium	_____ Visibility 0'	_____ Depth 101-130'	_____ Giant Stride Entry
_____ Blue Water	_____ Strong Current	_____ Depth >130'	_____ Shore/Beach Entry
_____ Night	_____ High Seas	_____ Nitrox	_____ Heavy Surf Entry
_____ Coral Reef	_____ Offshore	_____ Dive Computer	_____ Pier/Dock Entry
	(no land in sight)		

Additional Dive Experience:
(i.e. cold water, scientific, military, underwater photography, research, search & recovery, etc.)

How would you rate yourself in comfort and confidence when diving in strenuous conditions?
On a scale of 1-10, with 1 being not very comfortable and confident to 10 being very comfortable and confident.

Geographic Locations where you have been diving (i.e. Mexico, Bahamas, Hawaii, etc.):



Name: _____

6. DIVE LOG:

Please list your five most recent dives. Then use the rest of this page to describe experience that qualifies you to handle the conditions described in #4. You should include as much variety from your experience as possible.

DATE	MAX. DEPTH	LOCATION	ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS (e.g. visibility, current, surface conditions, etc.)
Most Recent:			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
Other:			

