



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Coastal America

OCEAN ART CONTEST

2009-2010 Calendar



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Coastal America
A Partnership for Action

www.CoastalAmerica.gov

Coastal America OCEAN ART CONTEST

Coastal America held its first ever Ocean Art Contest in the fall of 2008. The Ocean Art Contest's aim was to encourage students to visually express, through art, the importance of the ocean, as well as their understanding of the seven essential principles of ocean literacy. The seven essential principles of ocean literacy are: the Earth has one big ocean with many features, the ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of the Earth, the ocean is a major influence on weather and climate, the ocean makes Earth habitable, the ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems, the ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected, and the ocean is largely unexplored. These principles were created by the Ocean Literacy Network and articulate the fundamental elements that everyone should know about the ocean. The contest gave young artists the opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of the oceans, and encourage stewardship through their paintings, drawings and photographs by helping convey how a person's individual actions affect the ocean. The contest, conducted by fifteen Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers (CELC's) throughout the United States and one in Mexico, drew thousands of entries - paintings, drawings, photographs and collages from students of all ages. Each of the sixteen aquaria conducted their own regional contests and advanced their regional winners to the "National Contest." A panel of ocean experts and marine artists selected the final twenty winners based on visual impact, communication of the principle, and artistic merit. In celebration of the Art Contest and the opening of the *Sant* Ocean Hall, the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History exhibited the winning art and accompanying essays. The contest was sponsored by the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, Coastal America Federal Partners, the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership and the CELC network. The CELCs who participated in the contest included:

Acuario de Veracruz • Alaska SeaLife Center • Aquarium of the Pacific • The Florida Aquarium • Georgia Aquarium • Hatfield Marine Science Center • Oregon Coast Aquarium • Monterey Bay Aquarium • Mystic Aquarium and Institute for Exploration • National Aquarium in Washington, DC • National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium • New York Aquarium • North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher • J.L. Scott Marine Education Center-Gulf Coast Research Laboratory • John G. Shedd Aquarium • Texas State Aquarium • Waikiki Aquarium

Coastal America serves as a unique mechanism for innovative collaboration and strategic partnerships among federal, state and non-governmental institutions focused on delivering education and "on-the-ground" actions to protect, preserve and restore the Nation's coastal and marine environment. In 1996, Coastal America established the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC) network, comprised of a number of the Nation's premier aquarium and marine learning institutions. Building on their role as public education facilities, the CELCs use the resources of the partnership to expand the educational opportunities they offer to their communities.

For more information visit:
www.CoastalAmerica.gov