

WELCOME TO THE CATALINA ISLAND ECOLOGY SAFARI PROGRAM

Dear Chaperones,

Please accept our thanks for contributing to the success of your students' educational program. We recognize and appreciate the personal commitment you have made, and we will attempt to make the Island Ecology Safari program a rewarding experience for the chaperones as well as the students. In order to help you prepare for your up-coming journey, we have provided this Chaperone Information Packet. We have included the following forms:

- Adult Clothing and Supply List
- Acknowledgement of Risk and Waiver
- Adult Medical Form

ROLE OF CHAPERONE

Chaperones assist both the students and the staff with the operation of the Island Ecology Safari program. Chaperones on the Island Ecology Safari program are asked to fulfill three roles:

- **SUPERVISOR:** As a supervisor, chaperones are asked to monitor students on the boat, on the Island, and in the bunkroom. While chaperones are supervising students, the "visual contact" rule shall be strictly enforced. The students for whom the chaperone is responsible must be within the chaperone's view.
- **ROLE MODEL:** Chaperones are asked to serve as role models for the students. We have found that the students' experiences are influenced greatly by positive adult role models. Thus, chaperones are asked to follow the same rules and guidelines as the students.
- **PARTICIPANT:** We invite all of our chaperones to participate fully in the Island Ecology Safari experience. Chaperones are encouraged to be participants in all of our activities, rather than just observers. We would like this to be a learning opportunity for the adults as well as the students!

We truly appreciate all of your help! You will have a strong influence on the students' success and enjoyment on the Island Ecology Safari program.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Catalina Island is located approximately 31 miles from Dana Point and 26 miles from Los Angeles. The island's total resident population is under 3,500. Although there are developed coves at Avalon on the east end and at Isthmus on the west end, most of the Island is a wilderness area. Animal residents include wild boar, deer, goats, bison, rattlesnakes, ticks, and bees. While encounters with these animals are rare, both adults and students must be aware of the policies and procedures to ensure the safety of all. Your group will also be spending a lot of time aboard a Coast Guard certified vessel and in the waters surrounding Catalina Island. Close supervision of students by the accompanying adults is essential and strict adherence to the Ocean Institute rules is necessary.

VISUAL CONTACT

The Visual Contact rule has been implemented to ensure the safety of the students. This rule stipulates that students must be within view of an adult any time they are on the island, in the water, and aboard the ship. Students must be accompanied by an adult any time they are outside of a building. The Visual Contact rule is to be strictly enforced throughout the entire program.

STUDENT GUIDELINES

All teachers, chaperones, parents, and students must understand these safety rules before the start of the program. Please review these rules with the students before the program begins.

- Remain within visual sight of an adult at all times.
- Never go anywhere alone...always stay with your hiking/snorkeling group.
- Always walk on designated trails; follow behind the instructor(s).
- Never pick leaves, flowers, or stems from any plant unless otherwise told.
- Do not skip or throw rocks.
- No gum allowed.

While onboard the vessel...

- Wear shoes on board the vessel at all times.
- Do not enter any bunk other than your own.
- Always walk—no running on deck, keep both feet on the deck at all times, do not sit on the rails.
- Do not operate or touch any onboard equipment unless otherwise told.
- Report any illness or injury to an instructor or chaperone immediately.

While Snorkeling, Chaperones Should...

- Assist students with fitting of masks, fins, and wetsuits
- Supervise students not participating in the snorkeling activity
- Assist instructors with snorkeling groups in the water
- Assist instructors in helping students that need to return to the beach
- Assist instructors with the enforcement of all safety rules during the snorkeling activity

While Snorkeling, Students Should...

- Stay with the group
- Follow all safety rules outlined by the instructors

In the event of a student injury, a chaperone may be asked to supervise a hiking group, or to accompany a student back to either Wrigley Marine Science Center or Isthmus Cove for help.

ADULT CLOTHING AND SUPPLY LIST

Please pack the following in a backpack to be used throughout the first day:

- 1 Sack lunch for first day (avoid sweets and greasy foods!)
- 1 pair of shorts
- 1 swim suit (please wear under clothes for the first day)
- 1 towel
- 1 sweatshirt or jacket
- 1 hat (must block the sun)
- sunscreen (waterproof is best)
- 1 water bottle or canteen (these can be filled on the boat)

Optional Items:

- Wetsuit, mask, fins, and snorkel with carrying bag
- Sunglasses
- Book
- Camera
- Motion sickness medication (taken the night before or a minimum of 30 minutes before the trip)

Please pack the following in an overnight bag. These items will not be accessible until the evening of the first day:

- 1 sleeping bag in waterproof bag or plastic bag
- 1 pair of pajamas (Sweats/attire that can be worn outside recommended)
- 1 pair of long pants
- 2 shirts / 1 long sleeved, 1 short sleeved
- 1 pair of underwear
- 1 pair of tennis shoes (closed toed)
- 2 pairs of socks
- 1 washcloth
- 1 toiletry kit (soap, toothbrush and paste, comb and brush, etc.)

Optional Items:

- Day pack
- Mittens
- Bag for wet swimsuit, gear
- Rain gear (ponchos work well)
- Stocking cap

Do Not Bring:

- candy, gum
- radios, walkman, or electronic games
- curling irons or blow dryers
- hairspray

Remember:

You will be getting dirty and wet! Pack only the necessities...all gear must be stowed on your own bunk.

AVOIDING SEASICKNESS

There are several things that you and your students can do to avoid seasickness:

- Eat a good breakfast or lunch before the cruise--make sure that you avoid sweets and greasy foods!
- Take anti-motion medication the night before or at least 30 minutes before boarding the vessel (these medications generally last 24 hours so taking them the night before allows for the drowsiness to wear off)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK AND WAIVER FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

Welcome to the Ocean Institute! We want you and everyone to have a memorable and safe experience.

The Ocean Institute's environment, vessels, facilities, and activities are unique and different from your usual surroundings and activities. There are many inherent risks, dangers, and hazards and everyone must exercise caution at all times in order to avoid or minimize the risk of damage, injury, and death.

Examples of these risks, dangers, and hazards include, without limitation: (a) walking and standing surfaces that may be wet, slippery, moving, irregular, unstable, and rough; (b) open areas such as hatches into which someone could fall; (c) low or irregular lighting, or no lighting at all; (d) objects and equipment that could fall on someone; (e) low ceilings; (f) ropes, chains, and other items that could strike or entangle someone; (g) extreme and variable physical, weather, and ocean conditions, including darkness, sun glare, storms, and hot and cold temperatures; (h) vessels, docks, buildings, ladders, and stairs from which someone could fall; (i) vessels and docks that could pitch, roll, capsize, flood, collide, and sink; (j) gaps between a vessel and a dock that could open or close suddenly and unpredictably; (k) possible encounters with wildlife and plants; and (l) unavailability of medical attention and treatment.

If you attend and Ocean Institute activities, then you must exercise caution at all times to protect yourself and others from these risks, dangers, and hazards. If children or other persons under your care attend any Ocean Institute activities, then discuss these risks, dangers, and hazards with them as they too must exercise caution at all times.

Program Name:

Program Date:

Participant Name:

Last:

First:

Birth date:

Guardian Name:

Last:

First:

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

Work Phone:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Email:

If you attend any Ocean Institute activities, and/or if others under your care attend any Ocean Institute activities, then by checking the box below you, on behalf of yourself and such other persons, shall be deemed to have read and understood this document and to have irrevocably waived any and all claims against the Ocean Institute and its directors, officers, employees, contractors, volunteers, agents, and insurers for damage, injury, accident, illness, or death occurring during or by reason of such activities.

Additionally, I authorize the use of photos taken of me and others under my care by the Ocean Institute for its promotional purposes.

As the Parent/Guardian, I have read and agree to the statements made on this document.

Today's Date:

ADULT MEDICAL FORM

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Telephone Number (____) _____ - _____

Age _____ Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____

Social Security Number _____ - _____ - _____

Closest Relative (to notify in the event of an emergency)

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Telephone Number (____) _____ - _____

Work Telephone Number (____) _____ - _____

Additional Emergency Contact

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Telephone Number (____) _____ - _____

Work Telephone Number (____) _____ - _____

Insurance Information

Medical Insurance Group Name and Number _____

Additional Information

Do you have any physical or medical conditions or restrictions?

If yes, please explain _____

Do you have any allergies? Please specify _____

Do you regularly take any prescription medications? Please specify _____

