



Free Program!

2025 Cape May Student Summit

School Application



**Southern NJ Middle Schools
(Grades 5-8)**

**Nature Center of Cape May, NJ
Thursday, October 2, 2025
9:00 am - 12:30 pm**



Application Deadline: September 22nd



Science Can Be a Day at the Beach

A Seaside Symposium

Student Summit Activities

Student Activities Overview

Introduction to Diamondback Terrapins:

Terrapins are turtles that inhabit estuaries along the east and Gulf coasts of the United States. Terrapins were harvested in the late 1800's through the early 1900's as a food source with a high demand leading to reductions in their populations across their range. Students learn about the life history of this species, interesting variations in their markings attributed to genetic diversity, its role in the ecosystem, and how we have impacted the species. Researchers in the field will also provide a brief discussion about diamondback terrapin conservation and wildlife practices.



Activity Roundtables: An Environmental Extravaganza!

The roundtable portion of the Student Summit includes an interactive series of workstations with a variety of hands-on activities for students to learn about the environment. Some of the topics covered **may** include marine invertebrate anatomy and identification, nonpoint source pollution, and climate change. All students will participate in the roundtable activities.

Field Workshops:

Schools and classes will be divided, and a student will participate in one of the field activities. The goal is that each school will have students who have attended all field workshops and will share their experiences with fellow students in school. Examples of possible workshops include:



Seining and Marine Animal Identification

New Jersey's estuaries offer a variety of habitats as important breeding, feeding, and nursery grounds for a diversity of fish and invertebrate species. Many of these species spend only a part of the year in area waters, while other species reside year-round within certain coastal habitats. Students will use seine nets and sieves to collect fish and invertebrates to capture, observe, identify, and then release common marine animals found in the local bays.

Birds of the New Jersey Shore

New Jersey is within the Atlantic Flyway, providing a diverse viewing of coastal birds throughout the year. Students will join local birding experts in a survey and identification of coastal birds as part of their workshop.

Marine Water Quality Monitoring

Monitoring of surface water quality is an important source of information used by scientists and environmental managers to characterize water resources, identify water quality problems and trends, and develop water quality management strategies. Participating students will learn about the water quality approach to aquatic resource assessment by collecting and analyzing water samples.

Understanding Marine Debris

Marine debris includes trash and other objects that get into the marine environment as a result of careless handling and disposal. The problem of marine debris has emerged as a critical environmental issue worldwide. Debris in the marine environment is not only aesthetically unpleasant, but it harms marine life and litters the shore. Students will learn about the types, quantities, and sources of marine pollution plaguing our coastal region and participate in a beach cleanup.

About the Summit

The Student Summit expands learning beyond the classroom. It is designed to provide middle school (Grades 5-8) students who come from different areas of the state with an opportunity to experience hands-on, marine environmental education at the Jersey Shore. The activities included in the Summit have been selected to present students with an interdisciplinary marine and environmental education experience.

Who can apply:

Schools located in Southern NJ Counties:

Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem counties

Summit Location:

Nature Center of Cape May, New Jersey. Applications accepted through September 22, 2025.

How to Apply -- Three Easy Steps:

- Step 1: Agree to Terms of Participation

Carefully review the terms (page 4). Send the initialed and signed copy of the terms in with the completed application. They are used to ensure all participants have a productive day.

- Step 2: Complete Application Form

Complete the application form (page 5). Mail form with refundable deposit (make checks payable to Clean Ocean Action) to be received by Clean Ocean Action by September 22, 2025.

- Step 3: Send Application to Clean Ocean Action

Send Application, signed and initialed Terms, and \$100 Refundable Deposit to: Education@CleanOceanAction.org or mail to: Clean Ocean Action, "Student Summit," 49 Avenel Blvd., Long Branch, NJ 07740.

You will be advised about participation shortly after the deadline. Total Summit space is limited. **Acceptance is NOT on a first come, first-serve basis.** In the meantime, we suggest you make bus reservations and arrangements, and receive the necessary approval from your school. In the meantime, we suggest you make bus reservations and arrangements and receive the necessary approval from your school.

Costs/Refund:

The program and all materials are free. To ensure a commitment from your school, a refundable deposit of \$100 is required with your application. The deposit will be returned upon your completion of the post-Summit evaluations.

Dress Requirements:

Coastal locations are usually cold and windy. Advise the students to dress according to the weather, bring additional layers of clothes, and wear sneakers or hiking shoes. COA reserves the right to exclude or limit participation to anyone whose dress is inappropriate.

Weather Advisory - No Rain Date

Appropriate outerwear is mandatory; noncompliance may result in the student's participation being restricted by staff. In the case of extreme and dangerous weather, the event will be cancelled. Otherwise, the event is held rain or shine.



"I absolutely love bringing my students to this event. It is a great way to introduce them to marine science, field work and future educational opportunities!"

--a Student Summit teacher participant

2025 Cape May Student Summit - Terms of Participation

Terms of Participation:

The program is free to all participants. To ensure a commitment from your school, a refundable deposit of \$100 must be sent with the application. The deposit will be returned upon your completion of the post-Summit evaluations. Space is limited. Therefore, COA has established the following guidelines. In submitting this application, you understand and agree to the terms of participation. Please initial that you have read, understand, and agree to each bullet. Return with application by September 22.

- .. Students, teachers, and chaperones may be photographed or filmed by COA during the Summit. Teachers must notify COA before the Summit if any student(s) cannot be photographed. Students who cannot be photographed must complete a Non-Permission Release Form, and the teacher must present it to COA staff on the day of Summit. The form will be send with Summit acceptance materials. _____(initials)
- " Maximum number of students from each school is **30**. _____(initials)
- " Students, teachers, and chaperones are assigned to workshops in the Summit. **Students and chaperones will be separated and divided among all field trips so that each school will have students who have attended all activities. Students will be mixed with other schools. No changes will be allowed.** _____(initials)
- " **Arrival time is by 8:45 am sharp. Departure time is any time after 12:30 PM. If schools are unable to arrive promptly at 8:45 am, schools should not apply. Late arrivals may be put into a modified program.** _____(initials)
- " Schools are responsible for their own transportation to and from the Summit. _____(initials)
- " All students, teachers, and chaperones must bring their own lunch. Facilities to buy lunch are not available. Light snacks and drinks will be provided by COA. _____(initials)
- " Schools must bring **1** chaperone/teacher per **10** students. Chaperones will be required to assist in monitoring students from all schools during the Summit. Teachers, please share these terms to all chaperones! _____(initials)
- " COA reserves the right to exclude or limit participation to anyone whose behavior or dress (*see below*) is inappropriate or disruptive to any student's learning experience. _____(initials)
- " Teachers and students must demonstrate a desire to learn about the marine environment (*see application*) and complete and submit pre-Summit forms. _____(initials)
- " Participation is limited to a total of **500** students each day. _____(initials)
- " Students must bring their own pencils and clipboards. _____(initials)
- " COA will provide schools with bags for their trash (black) and recyclables (white). Schools must bring their garbage bags out of the park and back to school for proper disposal. _____(initials)
- " On the date of the Student Summit, teachers and students must comply with all applicable COVID measures recommended by the CDC and all such requirements imposed by the State of NJ. _____(initials)

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Summit Location:

Nature Center of Cape May - Cape May, NJ

Applications accepted through **September 22, 2025**.

Costs/Refund:

The program and all materials are **free**. Transportation and lunch must be provided by participants. To ensure a commitment from your school, a refundable deposit of \$100 is required with your application. **The deposit will be returned upon your completion of the post-Summit teacher and student evaluations.** Post- Summit evaluations not received by COA by December 1, 2025, will be cashed and used as a donation toward the Student Summit program. _____(initials)

Dress Requirements:

Coastal locations are usually cold and windy. Advise the students to dress according to the weather, bring additional layers of clothes, and wear sneakers or hiking shoes. COA reserves the right to exclude or limit participation to anyone whose dress is inappropriate. _____(initials)

Weather Advisory - No Rain Date

Appropriate outerwear is mandatory; noncompliance may result in the student's participation being restricted by staff. In the case of *extreme* wet weather, the Student Summit will take place primarily indoors with a modified program. Be advised that some limited activities will still occur outside. _____(initials)

School name: _____ **Teacher Name (please print):** _____

☐ I understand and have initialed the Terms of Participation

Teacher Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return initialed and signed Terms of Participation with your completed application by September 22, 2025.

2025 Cape May Student Summit - Application

Teacher/Advisor Name _____

School _____

School Phone # _____

Cell Phone # (Day of Summit) _____

Email address _____

Address (of school) _____

City/Town _____

Zip Code _____ County _____

Number of Students (30 maximum) _____ Grade Level(s) _____

Number of Teachers and Chaperones (1 per 10 students) _____

Space is limited. Acceptance into the program is determined based on the answers to these important questions. Attach more pages if necessary.

Describe how you integrate environmental education into your curriculum?

If environmental education is not a component of your curriculum, briefly discuss how the Student Summit could assist your educational needs.

What will you do with lessons learned at the Student Summit?

☐ I have reviewed and agree with the Terms of Participation. I am sending that initialed & signed document with the application and refundable deposit.

Please return this completed application and signed Terms of Participation by September 22.

by emailing COA's Education Manager, Kristen Grazioso at:

Education@CleanOceanAction.org OR by mailing to Clean Ocean Action at:

49 Avenel Blvd. Long Branch, NJ 07740.

Please send the \$100 refundable deposit to the above address.