

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL OCEAN COMMOTION FIELD TRIP

Here are a few suggestions to help make this a successful and enjoyable educational experience for you and your students.



- **Please ensure that you have at least one chaperone for every ten students as we have requested.** This will help keep your students focused on learning while at *Ocean Commotion*. Please brief your chaperones on the following: keep your group together, steer your group toward exhibits with fewer students, encourage students to ask questions, reassure students that there is not enough time to see every exhibit - but focus on learning from what they do see.
- **Divide your class into small groups** (10 or fewer students), each group will stay with an adult chaperone. This will facilitate movement between exhibits and ensure that students stay on task with the exhibits.
- Ocean Commotion exhibits are set up like those at a large science or craft fair. **Students are free to choose the exhibits they would like to view** and to visit exhibits in any order. There will be about 1,000 students plus teachers and chaperones in the PMAC during each session. **Name tags** (or other identification) are a good idea to help chaperones keep up with their student group.
- **When you arrive**, please have your **Check-in sheet ready** with the number of students, teachers, and chaperones in your group for the volunteers at the registration table. This will greatly speed up the check-in process.
- **Arrive on time**, or as much as 10-30 minutes early. Other groups are scheduled before or after you are. We ask that groups clear the PMAC at the conclusion of their session so that exhibitors will have a lunch break between sessions. We will not allow early birds to enter the PMAC in advance of their scheduled session. Schools are allowed in at 8:45 for Session I and 11:30 for Session II. Each session promptly ends in two hours- 10:45 for Session I and 1:30 for Session II.
- Because of time constraints, **it is unlikely that students will be able to visit each exhibit** (we'll have more than 65 exhibitors). Please emphasize that this is a learning event - and not a race to see if they can see everything in the PMAC. Divide your students into groups and ask them to concentrate on different areas. Each group can share their experiences back in class.
- **Use one of the event activities** included on our website. These teacher-created activities are to use before, during and after *Commotion* to help extend the learning that will take place at the event. The activities are designed to use in a typical classroom.
- **Teachers have also been successful** by requiring students to prepare 10 questions from 10 exhibits on an index card and record answers during the day. Others have required students to record on index cards 10 interesting facts they learned at *Ocean Commotion*.
- **Vending machines are not available at the PMAC.** Remember to bring drink coolers if you plan to picnic on campus. Restroom facilities are available in the PMAC and the Field House adjacent to the check-in area.