



Marine Advisory Service
Delaware Sea Grant College Program
University of Delaware
Hugh R. Sharp Campus
700 Pilottown Road
Lewes, DE 19958



August 20, 2018

Dear Fifth-Grade Teacher:

On behalf of the Delaware Sea Grant College Program and the University of Delaware's College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment, I am pleased to extend an invitation to your fifth-grade classes to participate in the Coast Day 2018 essay contest. Coast Day offers students and teachers a unique opportunity to learn more about the ocean and coastal environments as they take part in hands-on research demonstrations, tour ships and laboratories, see and touch marine life, and enjoy numerous other activities, from marine science lectures to seafood cooking demonstrations. This year's theme is "Science Serving Coastal Communities," and the festival will be held Sunday, October 7, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the UD Hugh R. Sharp Campus in Lewes, Delaware.

Our Coast Day essay contest follows the day's theme this year, with students being asked to **describe how they serve Delaware's coastal/aquatic habitats**. The enclosed materials are designed to help guide classroom discussion of the topic. Our intent is to create awareness about coastal issues in Delaware and to help teachers meet state standards through teaching about coastal ecosystems and the roles they play in our lives. Student essays must be postmarked or hand-delivered by close-of-business **Friday, September 21, 2017**.

Awards will be presented to the winning students and their teachers in a special ceremony at Coast Day, and the winners will be recognized in photos and press releases issued to the media.

While this essay topic does require some thought, the judges also will be looking for accurate descriptions that show students have researched the topic. A reminder that because this is a contest measuring students' aptitude for writing, parents should provide only limited help/guidance. A copy of a judge's scoring sheet is included in this packet, so you can see how different areas are weighted. If you have any questions, please contact me at 302-645-4308, or by e-mail at petrone@udel.edu. Visit www.decoastday.org for more information.

Sincerely,

Christopher Petrone
Director of Marine Advisory Service
Interim Marine Education Specialist

Enclosure



Coast Day 2018

Theme: Science Serving Coastal Communities

Each of Delaware's three counties are considered "coastal" counties. No matter where you are in the state, you are never far from water. There are many great coastal areas to enjoy, from the sandy shores of the Delaware Bay and Atlantic Ocean to the rocky sandbars of White Clay Creek and the Brandywine River, to the cypress stands of Trap Pond. These places are beautiful and fun, but they also benefit our health, support our economy, and provide for our everyday needs. With this in mind, we want to learn how YOU serve Delaware's coastal habitats.

Do you participate in the annual Delaware Coastal Cleanup or other cleanup event, plant dune grass, volunteer with Delaware State Parks or the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve, or practice responsible camping somewhere in the state? Let us know if you plant native flowers in your garden, have a rain barrel at your house, or if you have fun ideas for organizing a school or community event to help Delaware's habitats.

We want to know your ideas for "Serving Delaware's coastal/aquatic habitats."

- 1. Start by identifying your favorite coastal place in Delaware. It could be a bayshore or ocean beach, river, pond, creek, or even Delaware Bay or the coastal Atlantic Ocean, then**
- 2. Explain how you serve that coastal habitat, and how using science could make that habitat healthier.**

***Note: Please include student's name, teacher's name, school name, and word count on each entry.**

Word Count: Up to 400 words. Please include the word count at the bottom of the essay.

Deadline: Postmarked or hand-delivered by Friday, September 21, 2018

Mail entries to: Coast Day Essay Contest

Delaware Sea Grant – Marine Advisory Service
700 Pilottown Rd
Lewes, DE 19958

Prizes will be awarded to the winning essayists:

First prize: \$100 bookstore gift card

Second prize: \$75 bookstore gift card

Third prize: \$50 bookstore gift card

Essay writers receiving honorable mention and teachers of winning students will also be recognized!

Questions? Contact Christopher Petrone at 302-645-4308 or petrone@UDel.edu

Parents: If your fifth grader is entering this contest as an individual, and not as part of a teacher's assignment or extra credit, please notify your student's teacher that they are submitting an essay.

Teacher's Aids:

The books and websites below are a great starting point for both teachers and students.

This contest can also be used to meet Delaware state Science and English/Language Arts standards. A few examples of standards related to this essay theme are highlighted below.

Sample Vocabulary

adaptation, air quality, algae, aquatic, biome, buffer zone, community, conservation, cooperation, discharge, ecosystem, energy, environment, estuary, freshwater, habitat, investigate, legislation, marine, monitoring, native plants, nutrients, phytoplankton, pollinator, public hearing, regulation, restoration, runoff, stormwater, sustainable, water quality, watershed

Web Resources

Climate Change in Delaware Impact Assessment summary report

<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/energy/Pages/The-Delaware-Climate-Impact-Assessment.aspx>

Delaware State Parks

<http://www.destateparks.com/>

Delaware National Estuary Research Reserve

<https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/coastal-programs/research-reserve/>

National Geographic Society – 10 Things You Can Do to Save the Ocean

<http://ocean.nationalgeographic.com/ocean/take-action/10-things-you-can-do-to-save-the-ocean>

NOAA National Ocean Service – Coastal Ecosystem Science

<http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/ecosystems/coastalecosci/>

Smithsonian Ocean Portal – Helping Kids Help the Ocean

<http://ocean.si.edu/blog/helping-kids-help-ocean/>

Smithsonian Sant Ocean Hall – What You Can Do

<https://ocean.si.edu/conservation/climate-change/5-simple-things-you-can-do-ocean>

Thank You Delaware Bay – Get Involved

<http://www.tydb.org/get-involved>

Thank You Ocean – Take Action (California-based, but list is relevant nationwide)
<http://www.thankyouocean.org/take-action/>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Exploring Estuaries
<http://www.epa.gov/owow/estuaries/kids/>

Useful Publications — Books

Ecology (DK Eyewitness Books), Brian Lane, (ISBN: 0756613876)

Everything Kids' Environment Book: Learn how you can help the environment — by getting involved at school, at home, or at play, Sheri Amsel, (ISBN: 159869670X)

Heroes of the Environment: True Stories of People Who Are Helping to Protect Our Planet, Harriet Rohmer (ISBN: 081186779X)

Ocean (DK Eyewitness Books), Miranda MacQuitty (ISBN: 0756637767)

Pond & River (DK Eyewitness Books), Steve Parker, (ISBN: 0756610850)

The New 50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth, John Javna and the Earthworks Group (ISBN: 0740777467)

Water Stewardship: A 30-Day Program to Protect and Conserve Our Water Resources, David Gershon (ISBN: 0964437376)

Delaware/Next Generation Science Standards & Common Core Content Standards

Reprinted in part from: <http://www.nextgenscience.org> and
<http://www.doe.k12.de.us/commoncore/ela/teachertoolkit/geninfo.shtml>.

5-LS2 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics

LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

LS2.B: Cycles of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems

5-ESS2 Earth's Systems

ESS2.A: Earth Materials and Systems

ESS2.B: The Roles of Water in Earth's Surface Processes

5-ESS3 Earth and Human Activity

ESS3.C: Human Impacts on Earth Systems

3-5-ETS1 Engineering Design

ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions

ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution

Common Core English Language Arts Standards – Writing – Grade 5

Text Types and Purposes

- CC.5.W.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
- CC.5.W.3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

Production and Distribution of Writing

- CC.5.W.4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- CC.5.W.5. With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

- CC.5.W.7. Conduct short research projects that use several sources to build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.
- CC.5.W.8. Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; summarize or paraphrase information in notes and finished work, and provide a list of sources.

Common Core English Language Arts Standards – Language – Grade 5

Conventions of Standard English

- CC.5.L.1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
- CC.5.L.2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

Knowledge of Language

- CC.5.L.3.a. Expand, combine, and reduce sentences for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style.

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

- CC.5.L.6. Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal contrast, addition, and other logical relationships (e.g., *however, although, nevertheless, similarly, moreover, in addition*).



Coast Day 2018

5th Grade Delaware Student Essay Contest

Name:

School:

Teacher:

5 = Excellent

2 = Below average

4 = Above average

1 = Poor

3 = Average

0 = Did not attempt/show

Content (25 points)

- ____ Essay shows overall understanding of subject matter and clearly and accurately addresses the topic. (5)
- ____ Main idea is clear, focused, and well supported. (5)
- ____ Student has met and followed requirements and criteria of the writing prompt. (5)
- ____ Student has included information from suggested/relevant resources and sample vocabulary. (5)
- ____ Essay includes only factual, accurate information—scientific, historic, etc. (5)

____ Total

Organization (15 points)

- ____ Essay has a strong beginning that draws the reader into the text. (5)
- ____ Paragraphs are focused, idea-centered, and transition smoothly, connecting ideas and creating a sense of flow. (5)
- ____ Essay has a logical order and leads the reader through the text, including a clear beginning, middle, and end. (5)

____ Total

Grammar and Spelling (10 points)

- ____ Essay demonstrates correct use of sentence structure and punctuation. (5)
- ____ Student uses correct spelling and capitalization. (5)

____ Total

Originality & Creativity (15 points)

- ____ Student creates a meaningful connection to the reader. (5)
- ____ Student takes fresh approach to subject, addressing topic in a creative way. (5)
- ____ Student uses interesting organization or storytelling techniques to examine topic in an original manner. (5)

____ Total

____ **Final Score (65 points possible)**