

NATIONAL STUDENT SUMMIT ON OCEAN ISSUES

COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

As high school students we are aware of ocean issues.

1. We commit to raising the awareness of others by presenting educational programs to elementary schools about ocean issues.
2. We will develop an award program to publicly recognize and reward the "Green Behavior" at our schools and in our communities.
3. Knowing that the ocean is adversely impacted by non point source, we will start a recycling program at our schools.
4. Talk to local legislative representatives expressing concerns over the prevalent environmental issues, offering solutions, and encouraging both the funding needed and the education of the general public with respect to these concerns.
5. Promote awareness and consumption of sustainable seafood and support healthy, eco-friendly farming techniques.
6. Label the sewers so that people know how drainage flows into our oceans and how it adversely affects our environment.
7. Develop a series of public workshops focused on educating the masses.
8. Post legible signs against illegal dumping, which include the fines involved.
9. Use media to educate the public on ocean issues by promoting public service announcements on radio, TV, cable, in the newspaper, and through civic groups.
10. Educational Plays in the community focused on elementary school-aged children.
11. Organize community clean-ups of wetland areas - making the public aware of these activities through fliers and posters.
12. Grass planting along coastal areas.
13. Contact the Nature Conservancy and local organizations for current information and volunteer opportunities.
14. Write a children's book heralding environmental issues.
15. Adopt an estuary, just like concerned citizens adopt highways.
16. Sponsor field trips to introduce/educate children on environmental issues affecting their lives and help out in local environmental projects.
17. Get involved in data collection for federal and non-profit organizations.
18. Sponsor environmental clean-ups involving children.
19. Commit to use public transportation and encourage others to do the same as a means of helping to fight pollution and to save our coral reefs.
20. Commit to conserve energy through promoting efficient lighting at our schools, businesses and homes.
21. Partner with Panetta Institute to lobby for and implement small specifically placed marine reserves.
22. Sponsor environmental awareness days such as "Science Saturday" and "Plant Sea Oats Days" to involve the community.
23. Volunteers will educate members of their community to use environmentally safe methods when disposing of oil.
24. Encourage volunteerism at ocean-related organizations promoting conservation.
25. Encourage students to participate in ocean-related activities such as the National Ocean Science Bowl.
26. Promote school/community activities in celebrating National Oceans Day on June 8th with appropriate entertainment and documentary movie showings, kayak outings and other fundraisers. All funds raised would be donated to regional marine environmental and conservancy groups.
27. Lobby for community officials to install more recycling bins and trash cans along beach areas.
28. Form Regional Ocean Conservation Clubs (ROCCs) nationwide.
29. Contact our city officials to have hoods installed in the storm drains.

NATIONAL STATEMENT:

The students at this summit have committed to many actions to help mitigate some serious national ocean issues. The following activity captures the spirit of these commitments...

The Regional Ocean Conservation Club (ROCC) is made up of high schools interested in ocean conservation. High schools would utilize their partnerships with colleges and other organizations to enact projects dealing with specific problems within their region. This is a way to implement everyone's plan of action so that we can all work together for the betterment of our environment.

The Regional Student Summit Group sponsored by IGFA has inaugurated this movement by networking with the other thirteen regional student summit groups who took part in the National Student Summit on Ocean Issues.

REGIONAL STATEMENT:

Across our country, different regions have specific ocean-related environmental problems, such as unmarked storm sewers, need for student volunteering, lack of recycling and trash bins on beaches, and local energy conservation. Various regional students who were delegates to the National Student Summit on Ocean Issues have committed to actions that will both bring awareness to ocean-related problems of the specific regions and participate in activities themselves that will relieve the impact of such problems.