



# OAH'U, HAWAI'I

July 21-31, 2017

Ocean Matters Marine Science Through Service Programs

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) of the University of Hawaii, Coconut Island, Oahu, HI

Come along with 12-20 other ocean loving high-school aged students (15 or older) from all over the world for the experience of a lifetime. Earn Open Water scuba certification; explore Oahu's underwater riches in daily

scuba diving; learn the latest in marine research in hands-on labs and presentations by University of Hawaii professors. Address a pressing environmental problem through service. Relax with the green turtles, or

"honu" in Hawaiian, which haul out on the sands of Laniakea Beach on the north shore. Partake in other rare experiences that explore the nexus of indigenous knowledge, science, and sustainability.

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Oahu, Hawaii

# Frequently Asked Questions

**How might I benefit from coming on this program?**

Alumni of the program have identified the following benefits of the program: explore whether or not you want to pursue college study and a career in marine science; increase self esteem through meeting both physical and academic

challenges; develop research skills; feel empowered by helping to solve a pressing environmental problem; develop team work skills including effective oral and written communication, appreciation for differences, appropriate expression of

feelings, effective problem solving; develop leadership skills; receive scuba certification; receive 6-10 hours of community service credit. See our website for alumni testimonials.

**What are the prerequisites for the program?**

You do not need to be scuba certified to attend this program, as scuba training and certification is included. Students for this program

must be 1) high-school aged grades 9-12, 2) minimally 15 years of age when the program begins and 3) need a moderate level of

competency in the water and be able to swim 200 yards without stopping and tread water for ten minutes in order to pass scuba certification.



## What activities will we be doing?

After breakfast, mornings will feature scuba instruction: 2 days in a confined pool-like setting and 2 days of instruction in open water including testing for certification. Once everyone in the group is PADI Open Water scuba certified, we will explore Oahu's underwater treasures with two recreational boat dives a day for three days tailored to the group's comfort and skill level, including a bioluminescent night dive, typically a favorite experience of the group.

Afternoons will feature marine biology activities such as participating in a seahorse survey in waist deep water (on snorkel); instruction on the latest research on marine mammals; a bioacoustics lab that involves collecting and studying snapping shrimp in mud; hands-on opportunities to learn more about the challenges facing the coral reef from world-renowned

marine biologists; a trip to a native fish pond to learn more about sustainability from the perspective of ancient Hawaiian practice; and a dolphin expedition, where in addition to learning about the ecology of the Pacific white sided dolphin, we will be able to snorkel with these animals in open ocean. (PROJECT)

Students will help decide what they'd like to do for some of the more purely recreational activities we offer, but popular activities we've done in the past include a hike through a rain forest on the windward side of the Oahu, tracing the source of fresh water with a native Hawaiian storyteller sharing indigenous wisdom; a beach trip to the world famous Hanauma Bay, purported by many to be the best snorkeling in all of Hawaii; hula or surfing lessons; a beach trip to see the green turtles, or "honu" in Hawaiian, which haul out on the sands

of Laniakea Beach on the north shore; a day at Waikiki Beach; hiking Diamond Head or Punch Bowl Crater; or touring Pearl Harbor.

Evenings will feature dinner and programs by the water under the stars, where we'll learn more about how the island we are staying on was formed and hear Hawaiian legends from a native storyteller and stargaze to learn about celestial navigation from a member of the Hōkūle'a crew, a traditional two-hulled voyaging canoe that traced the original Polynesian migration to Hawai'i (and beyond) using only the stars for navigation.

Leadership training is also a component for our program, as everything we do requires young people to take responsibility for themselves and others in the group and allows opportunity to take frequent leadership roles.



**What will room and board be like?**

You will arrive at Honolulu airport on July 21st and then be brought by ground transportation to the boat launch, where three or four people at a time will be transported by small skiff to Moku o Lo'e (Coconut Island), an uninhabited island off of Oahu in Kane'ohe Bay.

Coconut Island houses the world-class marine research facility of the University of Hawaii: the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) Coconut Island is the former prototype for the "uncharted" island in the popular 1970s TV show Gilligan's Island!

The island features 64 acres of coral reefs protected for research purposes, a dining hall, state of the art classroom and research facilities, boat

docks, and a small beach. The island has an interesting past and was once a playground for the rich and famous. When the island was the summer home of oil magnate Edwin Pauley many Presidents spent time on Coconut Island. Some of these include past Presidents Harry Truman, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, and Ronald Reagan. You can still see the vestiges of the large concrete ocean pool built right into the coral reef where Pauley hosted large parties. The wonderful waterside pool house and large deck adjacent to the pool is a great gathering area for grilling, story telling, and socializing by starlight.

You will be staying in same sex triple or quadruple occupancy suites which

feature large windows with ocean views. The Lanai Suites are very rustic, with concrete floors, rattan furniture, casement windows, refrigerators, and private bathrooms. Not all rooms feature air-conditioning. However, they each have fans and a nice tropical breeze blows on most nights.

Since there are no restaurants on Coconut Island, all food will be catered by native Hawaiian chef Noel Nahale, who will be featuring native, sustainable, and locally sourced cuisine. Noel is also a pastry chef, so be assured we will be fed very well for our time in her care. We are also able to accommodate any dietary restrictions, so just ask!



**What role will scuba diving play?**

PADI Open Water scuba certification is provided,,as well as three days of 2-tank recreational boat dives. You must have your own mask, fins, and snorkel, but all other scuba equipment including a wetsuit, will be provided.

Diving will be supervised by Ocean Matters Director of Dive Education Laura McCallion. Laura has the highest level of scuba certification possible: she is a

PADI Course Director Laura will ensure that dives are customized to your comfort and skill level.

We dive together in a group with buddy pairs, to ensure the safety. Each dive is supervised by at least three professional dive staff with dive master or higher certification. We adhere to and exceed the highest of PADI dive standards.

Hawaii has some of the best diving with high diversity of coral reef flora and fauna. The possible dive sites for exploring at every depth of water are endless!

Once you have paid a deposit, Laura will set up your online scuba course work (approximately 12-14 hours worth) to be completed before attending the program.

## Who will arrange my travel?

You will be paying your own airfare, because students will be coming from all over the United States. You are welcome to book your flight yourself or you can simply call our travel agent Atlas Travel for booking. Atlas charges a service fee, which Ocean Matters will gladly pay for the ease of ensuring that you are well taken care of on your trip. If you choose to use Atlas you will have the peace of mind of having a hotline for unexpected changes to your travel itinerary. Atlas Travel is also expert at finding the best prices for your flight and will help ensure that coordination of our ground transportation

happens in the most efficient of manners.

Atlas Travel can be reached via email at [AtlasEvents@atlastravel.com](mailto:AtlasEvents@atlastravel.com). Please put "Ocean Matters" in the subject line and provide them with the following information.

1. Your name as it appears on your legal travel document (Example- **John David Smith**)  
\*\*For International/Canada-Your name should match the name on your passport\*\*
2. The city, state or airport you are departing from:
3. Your cell phone number:
4. Your Birth Date:
5. Gender (Male or Female):

6. Do you have a seating preference (aisle or window):
7. Frequent Flyer numbers (your preferred carriers):
8. Email Address:

They will then call you and work on securing a flight that works for your needs and budget.

If you are making your own flight arrangements, please aim to arrive at Honolulu Airport no later than 8 pm on July 21st as there are limited skiffs to Coconut Island after 10 pm. Travel after 10pm because of delays can be arranged, with details provided before your time of travel.

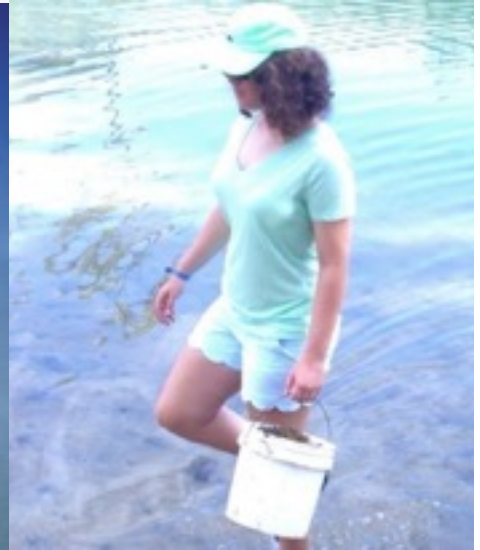


## Who will the staff for this trip be?

Ocean Matters Director Laura Parker Roerden, Assistant Director Cassie Bergeron and Director of Dive Education Laura McCallion will be involved in every aspect of

supervising this trip. HIMB's professional staff, professors, and researchers will be presenting much of the science instruction. Professional dive staff from

our dive charter Honolulu Scuba will assist in supervising the dives. Biographies for our staff can be found at [www.oceanmatters.org](http://www.oceanmatters.org).



#### How much does it cost?

The fee for the trip is **\$2,990.00** per person including all programming, scuba instruction, dives and gear, ground transportation, activities, food, beverages, and accommodations. **Airfare is not included. Students must also bring their own mask, fins, and snorkel.**

#### Win a Scholarship!

We have a limited amount of scholarship to give to an applicant who exhibits the passion and commitment to living blue that this trip celebrates. To enter, supply a video that is no longer than 3-minutes and features why you would be a great candidate for this scholarship and why you feel the ocean matters along with a recommendation letter from a teacher. addressing

both your merit and financial need. Videos are due by **March 1st, 2017**. Upload your video to a free google photos account. Once uploaded, click "share" and enter [admissions@oceanmatters.org](mailto:admissions@oceanmatters.org) Questions can be addressed to the same address. Scholarship winners will be selected by an independent panel of conservation and education professionals and announced on March 15.

## How do I apply?

Candidates will be selected on a rolling-admissions basis. All applications must be in by **April 1, 2017**. To apply, please submit:

1. A completed [application](#) (available online at [www.oceanmatters.org](http://www.oceanmatters.org)) beginning on January 1, 2017.
2. One letter of recommendation either an academic reference preferably from a science

teacher or another high school teacher, or a character reference preferably from an unrelated adult

3. An up-to-date transcript from all high school work completed to date (must include first semester).
4. A \$50 application fee paid to Ocean Matters. (The application fee is waived for scholarship applicants.) The fee may be paid online or by

check payable to Ocean Matters and mailed to Ocean Matters, 129 Rockmeadow Road, Uxbridge, MA 01569. Please allow 2 weeks from the time of application for your admissions decision. Skype interviews may be required of candidates.

## Do you still have questions or want more information?

Please feel free to call Ocean Matters Director Laura Parker Roerden at 617-304-4402

