

River to Reefs Educator's Workshop 2016

June 13 -18, 2016



Ever wonder where your rain water goes? Or how you are connected to the Georgia Coast and our Ocean? Or how Georgia history is connected to water? This weeklong teacher workshop led by the Georgia Aquarium, Gordon State College and Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary and Foundation will immerse teachers in a way unlike any other workshop. Teachers will wade into the watery world for a six-day, jam-packed workshop full of fantastic field experiences and empowering classroom lessons.

The workshop begins in Atlanta with a visit to the Georgia Aquarium's Learning Loop, where participants will get a little preview of the watery world in which they will be immersed. Then, we set off to follow the course of the Altamaha River Watershed from its headwaters near the Georgia Aquarium to the Georgia Coast, and then 20 miles offshore to Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary.

Field and cultural experiences include water quality monitoring, a canoe trip to the convergence of the Oconee and Ocmulgee Rivers, a boat ride through the Altamaha River Delta to explore the watershed that directly influences Gray's Reef, a trawling trip through the marsh, and a ferry ride over to Sapelo Island to explore Georgia's marshes and estuaries. On Sapelo Island, participants will be immersed in the cultural history of the native islander communities while investigating the ecology of beach and marsh ecosystems.



At the end of each day, you will be mentally and physically exhausted, sweaty and perhaps even dirty; however, you will have experienced the watershed, coast and ocean thoroughly. You will explore and investigate with your hands and feet, sometimes your entire body, and always with your spirit and mind!

"The science experiences on the river and on the coast are real: the results have meaning, are relevant and translate well to content in the classroom. The information can be used

in high school Chemistry, Environmental Science, and Biology classes. And, besides the science aspect, the whole trip was exciting, fun and personally rewarding. One of the best weeks I've ever spent in a workshop setting as a teacher." Jerry, High School Teacher, Morgan County

"The entire workshop was filled with hands-on experiences that can easily be taken home and translated into a classroom setting for students of any age. It was the intensive educational experience of a lifetime and I strongly encourage anyone with the opportunity to attend." Stephanie, Elementary School Teacher, Fulton County

Each day will conclude with a group discussion on how the day's experiences can be incorporated into classroom lessons. Daily reflective sharing often inspires the greatest of ideas and generates intriguing questions to answer.

Professional Learning Units: Four (4) PLU credits are available to teachers completing the requirements of the workshop.

Workshop Leaders:

Cathy J. Sakas, B.S. Bio., M.Ed. Sci., Education Consultant, Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Kim Morris-Zarneke, B.S. Bio., M.S. Bio. & Aq. Sci., Manager of Interpretive Programs, Georgia Aquarium

Mike Mahan, Ed. D Sci. Ed./Bio., Dean of the School of Education, Gordon State College

Cost: Free, Funding for this workshop is being graciously provided by Improving Teacher Quality Higher Education Grant (80%), Georgia Aquarium, Grays Reef National Marine Sanctuary and Gordon College.

Dates: June 13 - 18, 2016

Maximum Participants: 16 participants - *this workshop is only available to Georgia teachers with a current teaching placement (ITQHE requirement)*

Commitments: In submitting this application, the applicant agrees to participate in the entire course and the following:

1. Participate in pre-trip email communications and meeting in mid-May;
2. Contribute to workshop blog;
3. Develop a lesson plan for implementation in your classroom based on your experience;
4. Attend the follow-up meeting for additional reflection and sharing in January 2017.

Important Notes: This workshop does contain some moderate to rigorous physical activities in which you are encouraged to participate in and are conducted rain or shine.

Due to the limited number of spaces, interested teachers must apply and be accepted into the workshop to participate. Applications are due by April 1st. Selected participants will be notified on or about May 1st.



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Presented by the Georgia Aquarium, Gordon College
and NOAA Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary



PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Work Telephone: _____ Cell Number: _____

Name and Address of School: _____

County: _____

Grades and Subjects Taught: _____

Approximate Number of Students Taught Per Year: _____

Please include with your application these documents:

- A sealed letter of recommendation from your principal addressing how this workshop will benefit you and your class by participating.
- A personal statement, no more than 2 pages, answering the following questions:
 1. How will this workshop benefit your students?
 2. How do you affect the Georgia coast and ocean?

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Send completed applications to:

Kim Morris-Zarneke, Education Dept., 225 Baker St. Atlanta, GA 30313

E-mail: kzarneke@georgiaaquarium.org

Phone: 404-581-4192 Fax: 404-581-4199