



Application for
Down Under, Out Yonder
2009 Educator Workshop
Sponsored by the Gulf of Mexico Foundation and
supported by the Flower Garden Banks NMS

Saturday, July 11 – Wednesday, July 15, 2009

Submit to: Bobbi Reed
Gulf of Mexico Foundation
PMB 51, 5403 Everhart
Corpus Christi, TX 78411
Phone: 361-882-3939
Fax: 361-882-1262
Email: bobbi@gulfmex.org

Application must be received by close of business April 1, 2009

Participants will be selected and notified by April 17, 2009.

Workshop Fee of \$250 is due after acceptance to the program.

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL BLANKS ON PAGES 1, 5, 6, and 7.

1. PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____

Mailing Address (where you prefer your workshop information be mailed if you are accepted):

Work Email: _____

Personal Email: _____

Home phone: () _____ Cell phone: () _____

Work phone: () _____

Name of School (or organization): _____

City & State of School (or organization): _____

Grades and subjects taught (audiences reached): _____

Approximate number of students you teach (audience reached) in a year: _____

(This is for our records only; we are looking for **quality** as much, or more than, quantity.)

2. THE SELECTION PROCESS:

This is a competitive application process.

Applications will be reviewed (with applicant names blacked out) and rated by a committee of three people. Only one of them will be an educator by profession, so remember to limit buzzwords. For example, most non-educators won't know what "integrated classroom" means.

After the committee ranks all of the applications, the Gulf of Mexico Foundation dive team will review the full workshop applicants for dive experience, beginning with the highest ranking. If the team determines that an applicant's dive experience is insufficient to comfortably dive the Flower Garden Banks, the application will be removed from consideration.

The top 18 workshop candidates will be placed on the roster first. Candidates 19-22 will be listed as alternates. All candidates will be notified of their selection.

All selected workshop candidates will be required to submit a medical history form and a physical examination form (including a mandatory electrocardiogram (ECG/EKG), chest x-ray, and blood tests). All physical examinations and forms must be completed and signed by a physician between July 16, 2008 and July 10, 2009.

The Gulf of Mexico Foundation reserves the right to disqualify any candidate based on the results of the physical, medical history and/or insufficient dive experience.

**THIS PAGE DOES NOT NEED TO BE RETURNED
WITH YOUR APPLICATION.**

3. REQUIRED ESSAY:

Briefly describe how you plan to incorporate the knowledge and skills you expect to gain from this field experience into your current curriculum. *Please limit your description to one side of a letter size paper and type your response. We know it's hard to be specific when you haven't yet had the course, but if you have ideas for specific activities or approaches, please list them. Remember, this is the primary basis for selection to the workshop.*

At a minimum, you should address the following questions:

- If you teach science, do you currently have a marine unit? If so, how will you use this experience to enhance your existing unit(s)? Be as specific as possible.
- If you teach a marine science/biology class, does it include coral reef ecosystems? If so, how will you use this experience to enhance your existing unit(s)?
- If you have no marine or coral reef unit(s), do you expect to develop one as a result of this experience? How long will the unit be?
- Will you be working with teachers of other subjects to incorporate your new knowledge into their programs as well?
- If you are NOT a science teacher, how will you incorporate this experience into the subject(s) you teach? Will you be working with science teachers to incorporate your knowledge into their units as well as your own?
- If you do not teach in a traditional classroom setting, how often will you use the knowledge of coral reef ecosystems and issues you gain through this experience? Are you willing to commit to giving a specific number of Flower Garden Banks programs at your facility, or in other schools/facilities? How many?

Please attach a typed response to your application.

**THIS PAGE DOES NOT NEED TO BE RETURNED
WITH YOUR APPLICATION.**

4. DIVE CONDITIONS WARNING--PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

Diving conditions at the Flower Garden and Stetson Banks range from fairly easy to quite difficult, primarily because of the unpredictability of weather, sea states, and ocean currents. The standard entry from these vessels is a giant stride from 5-6 feet above the water's surface. Diving depths range from about 55 feet to 130 feet. Visibility ranges anywhere from 30 ft. to 120 ft.; the average is about 70-90 ft. in July. **You may experience currents moving in different directions and at varying strengths as you descend.** Local currents may change directions mid-way through your dive. This is not a drift dive; you will be required to get yourself back to the boat.

Wave action ranges from 1-8 foot seas. **In July, 4-foot seas are the norm. Exiting the water by climbing the ladder at the boat's stern is often quite difficult.** Surface currents range from 0 to 3+ knots. On this trip, if wave height is greater than 6 ft., or current velocity greater than 1.5 knots, diving will most likely be postponed. All dives are optional (if you're not certain you can handle it, don't do it). The boat captain and Foundation dive master reserve the right to cancel or postpone diving based on their assessment of diver skills and environmental conditions. **Their word is law!** (Not to mention the voices of experience!)

THIS PAGE DOES NOT NEED TO BE RETURNED
WITH YOUR APPLICATION.

Name _____

5. DIVE EXPERIENCE:

Please list all current dive certifications (including CPR, First Aid, Nitrox, etc.)

Ex: Basic open water PADI May 1989

Certification Type	Certifying Agency	Date

Self Assessment: (please circle the appropriate answer)

Have you ever run out of air during a dive? Yes / No

Have you ever been treated in a Hyperbaric Chamber for a dive related accident? Yes / No

Have you ever experienced symptoms of Decompression Sickness (DCS)? Yes / No

Have you ever experienced near-drowning, gas embolism or pulmonary barotraumas? Yes / No

If you answered *Yes* to any of the previous four questions please provide details: _____

Total Number of Dives: _____ Date of Last Dive: _____

Number of Dives in Last 12 months: _____

Number of Dives in Last 5 years: _____

How many of these were conducted in the open ocean? _____

If none, when was your last open ocean dive? _____

Maximum Dive Depth: _____ Maximum Dive Depth in last 12 months: _____

Please indicate the approximate number of dives completed in all areas in which you have some diving experience:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| ___ Saltwater | ___ Visibility >20' | ___ Depth 0-60' | ___ Large Boat (>=70') |
| ___ Fresh water | ___ Visibility 1-20' | ___ Depth 61-100' | ___ Small Boat (<70') |
| ___ Aquarium | ___ Visibility 0' | ___ Depth 101-130' | ___ Giant Stride Entry |
| ___ Blue Water | ___ Strong Current | ___ Depth >130' | ___ Shore/Beach Entry |
| ___ Night | ___ High Seas | ___ Nitrox | ___ Heavy Surf Entry |
| ___ Coral Reef | ___ Offshore
(no land in sight) | ___ Dive Computer | ___ Pier/Dock Entry |

Additional Dive Experience:

(i.e. cold water, scientific, military, underwater photography, research, search & recovery, etc.)

How would you rate yourself in comfort and confidence when diving in strenuous conditions?

Geographic Locations where you have been diving (i.e. Mexico, Bahamas, Hawaii, etc.):

Name: _____

6. DIVE LOG:

Please list your five most recent dives. Then, use the rest of this page to **describe experience that qualifies you to handle the conditions described in #4**. You should include as much **variety** from your experience as possible.

DATE	MAX. DEPTH	LOCATION	ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS (e.g. visibility, current, surface conditions, etc.)
Most Recent:			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
Other:			