



Application

2009 Intracoastal Waterway Wetlands Cruise

Sponsored by the Gulf of Mexico Foundation
and

ConocoPhillips



Sunday, June 14 – Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Submit to: Bobbi Reed
Gulf of Mexico Foundation
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Application must be received by close of business March 16, 2009

Participants will be selected and notified by April 10, 2009.

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL BLANKS

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.)

EXPEDITION PURPOSE:

This will be the inaugural year for the Intracoastal Waterway Wetlands Cruise (IWWC). The purpose will be to introduce teachers to the amazing coastal habitats, flora, and fauna of the Upper Texas and Louisiana coasts. Trained naturalists will be on board to present lectures and lead the exploration of this water world that is the heart of the Gulf of Mexico. Topics such as economy, sustainability, water quality, water budgets, and population dynamics will be discussed. It is expected that the participants will incorporate lessons learned into the curriculum they present to their students.

The Intracoastal Waterway is a 3,000-mile waterway along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the United States. Some lengths consist of natural inlets, salt-water rivers, bays, and sounds; others are man-made canals. The waterway runs for most of the length of the Eastern Seaboard, from its unofficial northern terminus at the Manasquan River in New Jersey, where it connects with the Atlantic Ocean at the Manasquan Inlet, to Brownsville, Texas.

THE SELECTION PROCESS:

For the first year of this program participants will be selected on a first-come basis. Participants will be limited to professional educators working in school systems or education venues such as public aquariums.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:

The program will be conducted aboard the M/V Fling a 118-foot vessel Coast Guard rated for passenger transport and support. The vessel has air-conditioned bunk space for 30 passengers, plus crew. Passenger bunks are 4 per bedroom. It has ample deck space on two levels. Amenities include a galley and three restrooms. The Fling has state-of-

the-art navigation and communication electronics and 110-volt electrical service. It will be crewed by two Coast Guard licensed captains with the support of galley and deck staff. The majority of the trip will be conducted in the protected waters of the Intracoastal Waterway. During the workshop leaders may elect to leave the protected waters of the Intracoastal Waterway and travel some distance in the open waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Along the way some time may be spent exploring coastal habitats in small outboard powered boats and/or kayaks.

Stairs leading to the bunk area below and the upper deck are steep. Participants must be able to navigate these stairs safely. Live marine samples may be collected using hand pulled seines and plankton nets. Applicants must consider personal physical abilities accordingly.

For safety reasons, only the Gulf of Mexico Foundation reserves the right to disqualify any candidate based on the physical ability requirements for living and working on a water vessel.

LOGISTICAL INFORMATION:

The workshop takes place aboard a 118-foot live-aboard M/V Fling that will depart from Freeport, Texas, and return to Freeport, Texas. The expedition will travel north/northeast on the Intracoastal Waterway between Freeport, Texas and Port Fourchon, Louisiana. The expedition will commence at 9:00 p.m., June 14, 2009, and return to the Freeport dock at approximately 6:00 p.m. June 17, 2009.

Aboard the ship, hot meals will be served three times per day and snacks will be available at all times. An assortment of non-alcoholic beverages will be available at all times. Beer can be purchased during the "off" hours. All food and non-alcoholic beverages are provided through the generosity of the Gulf of Mexico Foundation partners.

Dress is casual. Participants should plan on wearing cool summer clothing and sleeping wardrobe appropriate for mixed gender in shared bunkrooms. Pillows and bed linens are provided. Participants should bring their own personal toiletries. Plenty of sun screen, a hat, and sunglasses are highly recommended. Bring shoes appropriate for wading in shallow estuarine waters.

This workshop is sponsored by ConocoPhillips, and there will be no program fee imposed for participants once the vessel leaves the dock and until the vessel returns to the dock. Alcoholic beverages and souvenirs such as T-shirts are the responsibility of the participant. Participants must pay for their own travel and lodging expenses incurred in travelling to Freeport and in returning home.