



Application

Sponsored by the Gulf of Mexico Foundation
and ConocoPhillips

2010 Intracoastal Waterway Wetlands Cruise (IWWC) Monday, June 14 – Friday, June 18, 2010

Submit to: Candice Mottet
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Application must be received by close of business March 12, 2010
Participants will be selected and notified by April 30, 2010.

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL BLANKS

1. PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____

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

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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 second 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:

This is a competitive application process.

Applications and essay will be reviewed (with applicants names blacked out) and rated by a committee of three people. Only one of them will be an educator by profession, so please remember to limit “buzzwords”. For example, most non-educators will not know what “integrated classroom” means.

The top 20 workshop candidates will be placed on the roster first. Candidates 20 – 25 will be listed as alternates. All candidates will be notified of their selection by March 30, 2010. Participants will be limited to professional educators working in school systems or education venues such as public aquariums.

All selected workshop candidates will be required to submit a medical emergency form.

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 two pages, one and one-half spaced. If you have ideas for specific activities or approaches for the course, please list them. It may be helpful to view photographs from 2009 which can be found on our website. **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 wetland/estuarine unit? If so, how will you use this experience to enhance your existing unit(s)? Be as specific as possible.
- If you teach science, does it include coastal ecosystems? If so, how will you use this experience to enhance your existing unit(s)?
- If you have no marine or wetland 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) that 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 wetland/estuary ecosystem and issues you gain through this experience?

Please attach a typed response to your application.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:

The program will be conducted aboard the M/V Fling a 100-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 100-foot live-aboard M/V Fling that will depart from Freeport, Texas, and return to Freeport, Texas. The expedition will travel on the Intracoastal Waterway between Freeport, Texas and northeast toward Port Fourchon, Louisiana, and as far south at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. The expedition will commence at 10:25 am, June 14, 2010, and return to the Freeport dock at approximately 6:00 p.m. June 18, 2010.

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. A \$100 refundable deposit is required. The deposit will be refunded upon successful completion of the workshop. 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.