Connecting The Coast To The Classroom

Immersive Experiences for Science Teachers at Downeast Institute

FREE TO MAINE TEACHERS

Make science real, relatable, and relevant for students, even if science isn't in your background.

Lead authentic, exciting research projects at school, and at coastal locations nearby.

Help students care about the marine environment that is so important to our communities.

A Unique Experience

DEI's Coastal Science Academy is a yearlong program with a retreat-style introductory workshop to help you incorporate scientific inquiry and methods into preK-12 science curriculum, and increase confidence in STEM subjects. You will learn and apply DEI's "Let's Find Out" approach to promote student engagement in marine science, to encourage critical thinking and to foster environmental stewardship.

An initiative of:

Downeast Institute

P.O. Box 83, 39 Wildflower Lane
Beals, Maine 04611 | 207.497.5769
www.downeastinstitute.org | Follow DEI on

Proudly serving as the Marine Science Field Station for the University of Maine at Machias
www.machias.edu

Immersion Workshop

Teachers selected for the Coastal Science Academy will receive four days of training at DEI's coastal marine research facility and education center on Great Wass Island, in the town of Beals. A stipend and meals are provided, and contact hours will be awarded. Overnight accommodations are included. Each Academy is limited to 20 participants.

Daily workshop topics will include:

- The scientific method
- Research ideas
- Experimental design
- Fieldwork
- Educator resources

Learn to:

- Design and facilitate scientific research projects
- Raise microalgae
- Select appropriate support systems for live culture
- Use field study to support research
- Use citizen science platforms to inspire and track future projects

The week will include a guided research project as experience in the discovery process that educators will facilitate the following year in their classroom.

School Year Guidance

DEI staff will help during the school year in the design and implementation of a research project for students. Support will be in the form of consulting and technical assistance and may include field trips to DEI, such as hatchery tours, field work, marine science days, use of wet labs, and other activities to support projects. We can even visit if needed, as often as twice a month, to monitor experimental design and progress, data collection, and answer questions. Ongoing assistance will be provided by phone, email or other communications.

"Let's Find Out"

Naturally curious, children quickly make observations and ask questions that can inspire an authentic research project. DEI's "Let's Find Out" method has been used successfully with students of all ages. Its foundation is that research answers questions to which no one knows the answers. Teachers, scientists, and students embark on the exploration together, and make new discoveries together. In our experience, this dynamic resonates with students who see their teachers as partners on an exciting journey.

I have been teaching for 25 years and the Coastal Science Academy was by far the most valuable teacher workshop I have ever attended. Being able to act as a student learner, while at the same time, having concepts presented within the framework of how to effectively present them to students, made the learning experiences easily transferable to the classroom." ***- Elaine Despres, Freeport Middle School***

"Beals students have become better users of the Scientific Method including making a hypothesis, collecting data, and drawing conclusions through their DEI experiences."

- George Crawford, Beals Elementary

Interested?

Call or email Colleen Haskell: **207-259-5091, chaskell@downeastinstitute.org.** Teachers from outside Maine are welcome to attend. Please call for rates.

DEI thanks all the organizations and individuals who make this program possible through their financial support.