



Water is Life Information Pack 1

Dear Water is Life Participants,

March 2019

Water is Life has established itself as a premiere opportunity for students to meet, learn, and grow as young leaders in the area of water research and stewardship on a global scale. Following successful conferences in Singapore (2014), The Netherlands (2016), and Japan (2018) the next installment will be hosted in the United States for Water is Life 2020.

Saint Stephen's Episcopal School, in conjunction with the Water is Life Association, is honored and proud to welcome students and their faculty advisors to Bradenton, Florida from **June 22-26, 2020**.

The conference includes presentation of original student research, field experiences, expert speakers and collaborative problem solving activities to focus on water ideas and issues. The conference research themes concentrate on the local approach in each student's community and include new projects as well as continuing projects from the last conference.

Conference Research themes include:

- **Engineering and Technology**, hydrology, digital water management systems
- **Water Quality**, treatment, monitoring, waste water management
- **Biodiversity**, bioremediation, ecosystems
- **Communities**, service learning, community involvement projects, water and recreation, integrated urban-water designs
- **Education**, corporate social responsibility, awareness and advocacy
- **Stewardship and Policy**, leadership, national strategies, history and geopolitics of water, water conflicts

We invite you to pre-register your school team to establish your interest in attending Water is Life 2020. All schools may send one competing team. Second team invitations will be offered based on availability after schools register and pay in the fall of 2019.

Pre-registration link: <http://www.saintstephens.org/waterislife/prereg>

Saint Stephen's Episcopal School, its faculty and students, are excited to welcome you to our school, to our community and to the United States for this academic gathering. We look forward to learning from each other and sharing our water-rich environment to build global understanding of the Earth's water.

Best Regards,

Ann Marie Shields

Dr. Janet Pullen

Jennifer Hambrick

Conference Coordinator

Head of School

Director of Global Education

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www.waterislife2020.us

General Information

Date: June 22-26, 2020

Host School: Saint Stephen's Episcopal School

Location: Bradenton, Florida, USA

Housing: New College, Sarasota, Florida

Website: waterislife2020.us

Contact: Ann Marie Shields at waterislife2020@saintstephens.org



Florida is a peninsula that juts out from the mainland of the United States and has been submerged in whole or in part many times in its geological history. Surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the east, the Caribbean Sea to the south and the Gulf of Mexico to the west it has a rich maritime tradition. These ocean basins contribute significantly to the weather, the economy and the security of Florida. The ocean basins surrounding Florida provide beautiful beaches, commercial fishing and aquacultured food production. These industries must be flexible to manage storms, algal blooms and sustainable harvesting of the ocean life. Fresh water is a precious resource, located mostly in groundwater aquifers which are pressured by salt water intrusion and depletion by the residents and visitors to the state. Wetland recharge areas are critical to the access of clean drinking water and to wildlife habitat of local and migratory populations. The Everglades in south Florida has been designated a World Heritage Site for its biological diversity and unique watery habitat. All of these things make Florida well suited to host the Water is Life conference. We are excited to share our water story with the world.

Setting

In a world characterized by climate change and increased global inter-connectedness, the local and global challenges on water management are increasingly complex. We need to prepare for the future by developing, in our youth, the knowledge and leadership necessary to manage and overcome these challenges. This conference aims to bring bright young students from different countries together in a meeting of the hearts and minds. It seeks to plant the seeds of friendship and dialogue, instill awareness on the issue of water management and develop scientific, diplomatic and leadership skills in young participants.

Objectives

1. To create a deeper awareness and instill a sense of urgency regarding water security and sustainability issues through keynote addresses, dialogue sessions and student presentations on water management strategies and challenges in their countries.
2. To facilitate the development and sharing of scientific innovation in water technologies and water ecology through a scientific symposium.
3. To develop friendship and collaborative networks for future research projects on water technologies through cultural exchange and workshops.
4. To develop leadership and diplomatic skills in participants through facilitation sessions that incorporate dynamic workshops and activities aimed at developing their organizational skills, ability to lead and to work as a team.

Target Participants

Students ages 16-19 years old working as a school team of between 1-5 students.

Location

Bradenton, Florida, USA is located on the western coast of the Gulf of Mexico. All conference activities will occur within 50 miles (80 kilometers) and will include field excursions to both fresh and salt water resources.

Housing

Visiting students and teachers will reside in student resident housing on the nearby campus of New College of Florida at no additional cost. Both New College and Saint Stephen's Episcopal School staff will be available 24 hours for supervision and assistance in addition to each school's Supervising Teachers.

Watch the video of New College housing at https://youtu.be/T_y-qA98WrI

Costs

Conference registration fee is \$ 300 USD per person for each student and each attending faculty member.

Accommodations and meals are included at no extra cost from June 21 at 6pm EST until June 27 at 10am EST.

Airport transfers will be provided by Saint Stephen's Episcopal School at no additional cost.

Students and faculty are expected to arrange and pay for their own airfare and travel insurance.

Conference Guidelines

1. Schools are invited to form one competitive team consisting of 1-5 students who conduct water-based research that conform to one of the 5 themes mentioned in the Introduction letter. Research must be conducted using the INTEL-ISEF research standards. ISEF forms are not required.

<https://student.societyforscience.org/judging-criteria-intel-isef>

2. Schools are expected to register students and supervising teachers to attend the conference. Pre-registration will occur on-line between March – September 2019.

3. Full registration and payment must be completed by March 2020. Official letters of invitation will be sent, upon payment, which can be used for VISA applications, as needed.

4. Projects must be completed and ready for submission by March 2020

5. Each research team will submit their final report in the English language online in March 2020.

6. An international committee of water experts and scientists will review the reports and award best research results with commendation awards.

7. Students are responsible for an oral and poster presentation of results during the conference in June 2020. Research results will be published on the Water is Life Association website.

Conference Preparation Timeline

March – September 2019	Pre-registration – http://www.saintstephens.org/waterislife/prereg
September 2019 – March 2020	Student teams complete research and prepare research paper
September 2019 – March 2020	Schools complete full registration and payment
October 2019	Submission of proposed research abstract online
March 2020	School teams submit their research reports online
March – June 2020	School teams prepare a research poster and oral presentation for judging
June 21, 2020	School teams arrive in Bradenton, Florida, USA
June 22-26, 2020	Water is Life 2020
June 27, 2020	School teams leave for home or other travels

Proposed Conference Agenda

June 21, 2020	Arrivals
June 22, 2020	Opening Ceremony/ Opening Keynote Speaker Artificial Reef building/ visiting living shoreline
June 23, 2020	Student Research presentations Water Related Educational Exhibit Hall Mote Marine Laboratory/ Climate Change Speakers
June 24, 2020	Myakka River State Park Wetlands and water recharge area speaker Workshops on water related technology South Florida Museum/ Manatee exhibit
June 25, 2020	Student poster presentations Panel discussion by Youth Leaders in Water Related Issues Group Problem Solving /Design Thinking Workshop Beach time on the Gulf of Mexico
June 26, 2020	Action Plan Development Citizen Science Water-based project Closing Ceremony/Awards International Afternoon Celebration dinner and beach party/dance
June 27, 2020	Travels home

Future Information Packets

Information Pack 2 – September 2019, Abstract Guidelines, Pre-registration and Full Registration information, Financial payment information, research report guidelines, Airport information

Information Pack 3 – October 2019 , FAQ's, names of schools who have pre-registered, VISA information, judging criteria for oral and poster presentations

Information Pack 4 – March 2020, Conference Agenda, Dress code guide, packing guide, wifi connections, expenses and insurance information, student ambassador information

Conference Links

Water is Life 2020 website www.waterislife2020.us

Pre-registration form <http://www.saintstephens.org/waterislife/prereg>

Questions?

Please email questions to Mrs. Ann Marie Shields at waterislife2020@saintstephens.org