



Hands on the Land

A National Network of Field Classrooms Linking Students, Teachers, and Parents to their Public Lands and Waterways

Featured Site:

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

As one of Hands on the Land's newest and only NOAA site, The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is one of 13 national marine sanctuaries created under the U.S. Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act. The sanctuary's goal is to promote comprehensive and coordinated management, research, education and long-term monitoring for the endangered humpback whale and its habitat. The sanctuary focuses its efforts on a variety of issues, including supporting the work of marine researchers, coordinating and participating in community outreach projects, developing educational displays, and working cooperatively with local organizations, agencies and volunteers to address resource protection and public awareness. The Maui Sanctuary site is located right on the beach in Kihei, Maui, offering easy access for water quality, plankton and fish monitoring classes. With an amazing natural classroom out its backdoor, this site has an incredible set of hands-on educational programs to offer.



Students at the Marine Sanctuary participate in a wide variety of hands-on learning experiences whether it is through measuring water quality, getting perspective on the size of a whale or collecting inter-tidal zone data for a monitoring project.

Currently, the Sanctuary offers a diverse set of learning opportunities to students. Students participate in fishpond monitoring characterized by in-class training to specifically familiarize students with the fish species found in the adjacent fish pond. Students survey the pond using 25 meter transects counting fish species in each transect. The focus is to monitor changes in the fishpond as it is being restored. Using simple tools like meter sticks and levels, students also measure beach erosion at regular intervals. If fixed points are chosen, then long-term and seasonal changes in the structure of the beach and dune system can be monitored. Investigating both inter-tidal zones and researching algal blooms are two additional projects that engage both students and volunteers at the Sanctuary. Currently, staff is creating baseline information on the Kihei algal bloom. Students and volunteers measure and sort algae that is collected near shore to quantify which species is dominating the bloom. With these and other educational programs offered, visitors, volunteers and students to the Sanctuary are sure to have an amazing experience.

Learn more by visiting the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary webpage on the Hands on the Land website: http://www.handsontheland.org/profiles/profile_details.cfm?sitecode=hais or contact Patty Miller at (808)879-2818 or patty.miller@noaa.gov.

Upcoming Events

Win \$500 for Your HOL Site!

Each year, Hands on the Land recognizes excellence in educational programming and partnerships through its Awards Program. This year, sites are eligible to win both recognition and a \$500 stipend if chosen as an awardee. Winners are also acknowledged on the HOL website and newsletter and presented with a letter of recognition.

Previous award winners have utilized the opportunity to send out press releases to their communities to showcase the great work their site is doing in partnership with HOL. 2008 Awards will go to sites that excel in Fostering Partnerships and Educational Programming. Please consider these as you nominate a site. To submit your nomination, fill out the Nomination Form no later than **July 31, 2008**.

The form is located on the HOL website at <http://www.handsontheland.org/manage/nomination.cfm>.



2008 Award Categories:

- **Fostering Partnerships:** How has your site partnered with schools, students parents or teachers to connect them to public lands and waterways? How does your site collaborate with these groups on projects or programs happening on public lands or waterways? Collaboration could be within the community or with other HOL sites. Please be specific.
- **Educational Programming:** What kind of educational programming does your site have? What makes it unique? How does your site take its educational programming and share it on the HOL website? What resources do you currently have on the website? Please identify specific postings, including teacher resources, student work, curriculum development—those web resources that are unique to your site.

Please contact Ellen Reid at Hands on the Land with any questions.

Take Pride in America® Nominations

Take Pride in America® is seeking nominations of individuals, companies or civic groups that have demonstrated a commitment to stewardship of America's public lands. Every year, Take Pride in America presents the National Awards to individuals and groups who have volunteered their time and talent to our federal, state, and local public lands and waterways. Anyone may submit a nomination; self-nominations are accepted and encouraged!

Nominations are due May 1, 2008 at 12 noon EST. Nominated projects and efforts must have been started and/ or completed between May 1, 2007 and April 20, 2008. Winners will be chosen by a selection committee and are invited to attend an awards ceremony in Washington, DC on July 17, 2008. Visit www.TakePride.gov to complete the National Awards application form and for detailed information. Applications must be submitted on-line. If you need additional information on how to nominate an individual or group in one of the 10 award categories, call 202-208-5848.

HOL News

New Site Recruitment

Because incredible educational programming takes place at both federal land and waterway sites as well as at a state and local level, Hands on the Land is actively recruiting these new sites! If you know of any state or local sites that maintain regular educational programming and that might be a great addition to the HOL network, please contact Ellen Reid. We're expanding our family of sites and look forward to enhancing the network.



Quarterly Newsletter

Hands on the Land newsletters will be produced and distributed on a quarterly basis beginning January 2008. Look for your remaining 2008 newsletters to arrive in April, August, and December. Remember-if you have anything you'd like to share between those dates, be sure to use the Bulletin page on the website. It's an excellent way to share your site's news and network!