



# NEWSLETTER

Our newsletter provides an opportunity to catch up on some of our organizational highlights. Here is a four-minute read of this past month's exciting news, including:

- Shara & Dr. Ocean - *Page 1*
- Scientist-in-Residence, Aja Szumylo - *Page 2*
- Summer Camp has Started! - *Page 3*
- Ocean Leader Bridge - *Page 4*
- Report to the Community - *Page 5*

## SHARA & DR. OCEAN REUNITED

Shara Fisler, our Executive Director, was inspired once again as she spent the day with Dr. Jeanette Davis on Hampton University's campus. Dr. Davis, aka "Dr. Ocean," was a Scientist in Residence at Ocean Discovery last year. During her stay at our Living Lab, She shared her science knowledge, passion for mentoring, and books to inspire children to pursue science.

They both explored an exciting collaboration to support Ocean Discovery Institute's replication efforts. Dr. Davis is now building a climate science center at Hampton University. Go Awesome!



*Shara and Dr. Davis inside one of the labs*



*Shara and Dr. Davis at Hampton University*

# SCIENTIST-IN-RESIDENCE, AJA SZUMYLO

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July 2024

Last month we hosted yet another Scientist-in-Residence, Aja Szumylo.

As the Executive Director of the Pacific Whiting Conservation Cooperative, she leads a trade association representing companies using large factory trawl vessels for Pacific Whiting harvesting. With a background in Biology from Swarthmore College and Environmental Management from Duke University, her career reflects a passion for interdisciplinary approaches to environmental challenges. She advocates for diversity and inclusion in STEM, sharing her journey with underrepresented youth and emphasizing the importance of diverse representation in government regulation.



*Aja Szumylo, Executive Director of the Pacific Whiting Conservation Cooperative and Ocean Discovery's most recent Scientist-in-Residence*



*Aja, alongside summer camp students exploring invertebrates firsthand*

During her visit to the Living Lab, Aja brought her expertise to light, interacting with students and recounting her distinctive path to becoming the accomplished science leader she is today. Her insights and understanding of fisheries and their impact on our environment enhanced our summer camp significantly, making a lasting impression on our team and students alike.

Thank you Aja, for inspiring the next generation of Science Leaders from City Heights, your advocacy for a diverse STEM future is appreciated by all of us!



# SUMMER CAMP HAS STARTED!

Summer Camp is here! Our dedicated summer team has been diligently preparing for the arrival of 300 K-8 students who have joined us for our exciting summer camp program, "Hermit Crabs and Friends - Tales from the Tidepools." We are thrilled about this adventure as our students dive into the wonders of the rocky seashore.

Our summer camp serves as a natural classroom where curiosity and imagination can thrive. Each day is filled with hands-on activities encouraging our young explorers to engage with nature, understand ecosystems, and develop a deep appreciation for the environment.

We are passionate about sparking a lifelong interest in nature and science, and we are overwhelmed with the enthusiasm and discoveries that this summer has brought our students.



*Summer Camp students ready to start the week*



*Students create their own invertebrates*



*Rocky Seashore created by our summer camp students*



# OCEAN LEADER BRIDGE

July 2024

Ocean Leader Bridge is the beginning of our newest cohort of Ocean Leaders. These Ocean Leaders will stick together throughout their high school years, evolving into the future science leaders from City Heights!

Throughout the 12-day Ocean Leader Bridge Program, our newest cohort explored invertebrates, fish, and marine mammals, engaging in one-of-a-kind hands-on activities. We had a special teaching volunteer, Matt; one of the original four who built Ocean Discovery. Now, he heads up the science department at a high school in Colorado. But Matt travels to San Diego every summer to spend two weeks with our Ocean Leaders. With 25 years of experience in education, he enriches our community with his expertise and passion. Thanks to his teaching experience, our Ocean Leaders are eager to embark on their high school journey, ready to become the next generation of Science Leaders from City Heights!



*Ocean Leaders at NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center*



*Ocean Leaders at La Jolla Exploring Mammal Adaptations*



*Meet our newest Ocean Leaders!*



*Matt, our amazing volunteer*



**Support our next cohort of Ocean Leaders by donating to Ocean Discovery on SD Gives Day, happening September 5th. Save the Date!**





**OCEAN DISCOVERY INSTITUTE**  
*young lives transformed through science*

# REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

FIVE O'CLOCK P.M.

AUG

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UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO |  
JOAN B. KROC INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE  
5555 MARIAN WAY, SAN DIEGO, CA 92110

BUSINESS CASUAL ATTIRE

PAID PARKING AVAILABLE AT WEST PARKING LOT

TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS &  
FAMILIES

[Click here to RSVP](#)

Join us for an evening of inspiration as our Ocean Leader students get on stage, present their distinctive scientific research, and reflect on unique summer science experiences!

Presentations will be preceded by a reception with light appetizers, refreshments, and conversations with Ocean Leaders and other Ocean Discovery supporters.



Thank you to our partners:



The Community of Bahía de los Angeles