

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:

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OUR FEATURE ON ABC 10 NEWS

Ocean Discovery Institute was recently showcased on ABC 10 News! If you didn't catch it, click the link below to watch and pass it on to your contacts. The segment includes perspectives from alumni Carla Camacho, our Manager of Business Development; Rudy Vargas, our Board Chair; and Ethan, a current student excited about one day joining our Ocean Leaders high school program. Learn more about our mission and the students we support, and join us this weekend for our annual fundraiser, *SPLASH!* – everyone is welcome to join! Check out some behind-the-scenes pictures below.

[Watch the segment to Learn More](#)



Rudy Vargas interviewed by
Rachel Bianco from ABC 10



Carla Camacho interviewed by
Rachel Bianco from ABC 10

SPLASH! OUR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

On May 18th, we are hosting our 2nd annual *SPLASH!* fundraiser supporting tuition-free science for students in City Heights. The event is a move from our traditional black-tie fundraisers of the past to innovate to a more equitable philanthropic fundraising model. We lowered event costs and decreased the price of admission, all to ensure that more of each contribution will go directly to programs and that our entire community of support – from families to donors to partners – can attend.



Join us in support of the next generation of Science Leaders

Because of Ocean Discovery's re-envisioned event model, local leaders in business, academia, science, and the community can come together and contribute at levels that are meaningful to them – whether that's \$10 or \$20,000.

VIRTUAL AUCTION IS OPEN!

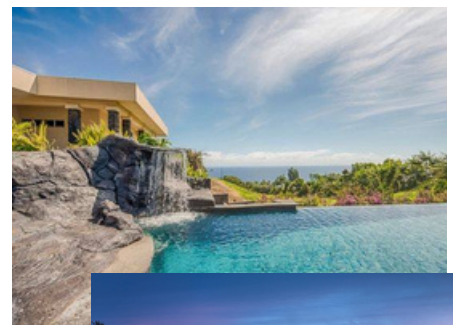
We are delighted to announce our first-ever Virtual Auction! This opportunity welcomes all our supporters, regardless of their presence at *SPLASH!* to participate! The winners will be announced on Saturday, May 18th, during our *SPLASH!* fundraiser (winners not present will be reached out to shortly after).

Here are some of the items you can bid on today!

1. Hawaii Get Away with you and 7 friends
2. Staycation at the Lodge at Torrey Pines
3. Yacht Cruise and Sunset Dinner on San Diego Bay
4. Surprise Get Away with Southwest Airlines

Visit our virtual auction webpage to find more items!

[Click here to access our virtual auction!](#)



MEET AN OCEAN LEADER, OSCIRIS

Meet Osciris, a graduating senior who has been part of Ocean Discovery Programs since 6th grade. Engaging in hands-on activities and field trips since middle school, Ocean Discovery ignited Osciris' love for animals. Becoming an Ocean Leader in 9th grade opened up more intensive programs and college exposure, marking the next exciting chapter in her academic journey.

Looking forward, Osciris envisions a future as a dedicated veterinarian caring for animals in need. This fall, she will begin her college journey by majoring in biology at San Diego State University.

Reflecting on her experiences, Osciris shares advice with younger Ocean Leaders. She encourages them to make the most of high school, explore themselves, seize opportunities, and embrace the support from those cheering them on. Osciris advises not to worry about the future but instead follow their passions as success will naturally ensue. She emphasizes enjoying the present, cherishing the little things, and being grateful for each day.



Osciris, Class of 2024



[Click Here to Share Her Story](#)

PROGRAM STAFF ATTENDS THE BOOST CONFERENCE

The Best of Out-of-School Time (BOOST) Conference is an annual event that provides professional development for out-of-school-time professionals. It focuses on youth development and extended learning programs and offers workshops, keynote speakers, and networking opportunities for educators and youth workers.

This year, both of our Program Coordinators, Ameena Smith and Emily Aguilar, attended this unique conference.

Emily shares her experience: "At BOOST, I learned many team-building games and fun icebreakers to bring back to our students. I also learned more about integrating math into our Out-of-School Program and how to make math fun in after-school spaces. I loved the after-school spirit at the BOOST Conference. I connected with many educators and heard about different after-school programs across the United States. I left feeling very inspired, and it was an amazing experience!"



Emily and Ameena at BOOST

Ameena also had an enriching experience; she shares, "The BOOST conference was an amazing way to connect with others who work in similar spaces from all over the country. It was a combination of both fun and education. I participated in workshops focused on fun icebreakers for various age groups, racial inequities in programming space, and tips and tricks on connecting and collaborating with different partners in my community. I'm grateful I could experience these workshops that tie hand in hand with my work at Ocean Discovery. One memorable moment I saw was the opening keynote speaker on day one, Hamish Brewer. His motivating speech touched on the realistic and authentic thought process behind why some students behave as they do. His speech set the tone for the rest of the conference. BOOST was a great time, and I am so glad I had the opportunity to learn so much!"