



# 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:

- Join our Monthly Giving Community - *Page 1*
- Alumna Spotlight: Susan Garcia - *Page 2-3*
- Ocean Leader Field Trip - *Page 4-5*
- Vertex Service Day - *Page 6-7*
- *SPLASH! 2025 Save the Date - Page 8*

## BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR & HELP US UNLOCK \$5,000 TODAY

Ocean Discovery offers tuition-free programming to our students, ensuring every young person in our community can access our science programs. We rely on the generosity of foundations, corporations, government agencies, and individuals like you to sustain this model.

We just launched a campaign to enroll 25 new members into our monthly donor community and need your help! If we reach our goal, we will unlock \$5,000 from the David C. Copley Foundation!

Our monthly donors contribute between \$20 and \$300 a month, totaling over \$45,000 annually. This covers the cost of 25 high school students participating in residential research experiences each summer!

Sign up today to make these unforgettable adventures a reality for even more of our high school Ocean Leaders!



*The future science leaders from City Heights need your support*

[Click here to sign up today!](#)  
*Be sure to click on the "monthly" tab at the top.*



**Alumna Spotlight, Susan Garcia**

**Class of 2016**

# ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT: SUSAN GARCIA

Susan joined the Ocean Leader Program during her sophomore year at Hoover High School, where she participated in year-round leadership opportunities, including our immersive summer residential program.

After high school, Susan pursued a degree at Brandeis University, double majoring in Biology and Chemistry. With her B.S. in hand, she set her sights on earning a Ph.D. in Chemical Oceanography at the University of Washington, with the ultimate goal of securing a position in academia to foster connections for underrepresented groups in science. Throughout her academic journey, she has conducted laboratory and at-sea research, participated in multiple research experiences for undergraduate programs, and received exceptional support from her mentors.

Thank you to Southwest Airlines, the official airline of Ocean Discovery, for their generosity and Susan's unwavering commitment to education and community, she flew back to support the next generation of students this summer. As a summer instructor for our Ocean Leaders programs, she played a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of science leaders from City Heights.

[Click here to Read more](#)

## Southwest<sup>®</sup>

Thank you to Southwest Airlines, the official airline of Ocean Discovery.



*Susan as a student in our programs in Baja*



*Susan, this past summer, mentoring the next generation of science leaders from City Heights*





Ocean Leader Field Trip



# OCEAN LEADER FIELD TRIP

We celebrated Latino Conservation Week by participating in the Journey Through the Wetlands event! Our Ocean Leaders and their families joined the San Diego Bird Alliance to honor the contributions of the Latino community to conservation.

Our students explored science and conservation booths, interacted with live animals, and even participated in an ocean cleanup while kayaking. We enjoyed delicious food, live mariachi music, and various art activities that showcased the beauty of our coastal wetlands.

A huge thank you to the San Diego Bird Alliance for making our weekend special! Together, we celebrate our culture, community, and commitment to protecting the environment!



*Our Ocean Leaders enjoying a nice Kayak opportunity while cleaning our San Diego Bay*



*Supporting our friends at the San Diego Bird Alliance*



*Our family members enjoying a Saturday field trip*





Service Day at Vertex Pharmaceuticals!



# VERTEX SERVICE DAY

We are thrilled to announce that this is our second year participating in the Vertex Day of Service at the San Diego Learning Lab.

A huge thank you goes out to the Vertex team for their incredible dedication and hard work. This year, volunteers rolled up their sleeves to tackle essential projects for our programs, all aimed at ensuring a successful kickoff to the school year. Their efforts not only included preparing save the dates for our *SPLASH!* fundraiser but also involved various tasks that support our mission and help our programs thrive.

We are incredibly grateful for this volunteer service day and truly appreciate the support from the Vertex team!



*We are thankful for the Vertex Team and all of their continued support*



*The Vertex Team is a proud supporter of Ocean Discovery and our unique science programs*



# Save the Date **SPLASH!**

**OCEAN DISCOVERY INSTITUTE'S  
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER**

**April 5th, 2025**

**FOUR O'CLOCK**

**Ocean Discovery Institute  
4255 Thorn St. San Diego, CA 92105**

Join us for *SPLASH! 2025*, an unforgettable evening at the Living Lab.

This cocktail-style event will include drinks and appetizers from our local Mexican Eatery, opportunities to mingle with other Ocean Discovery supporters, alumni, and volunteers, and, of course, chances to hear directly from our students about their experiences!



*More details and a formal e-invitation to follow.*