



**2012 Application
for
Intracoastal Waterway Wetlands Expedition**

**Teacher Training Workshop
Please check the workshop you are applying for:**

Summer I: June 10-15, 2012

Summer II: June 17-22, 2012

Submit to: Gulf of Mexico Foundation
Attn: Suraida Nañez-James
PMB 51, 5403 Everhart
Corpus Christi, TX 78411
Phone: (361) 882-3939; Fax: (361) 882-1262
Email: suraida@gulfmex.org

Workshop fee of **\$100** is due **AFTER** acceptance to the program.

Application Deadline: April 20, 2012

Participants will be selected and notified by **May 7, 2012**.

PLEASE FILL IN ALL BLANKS.

1. PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____

Preferred Mailing Address (where your workshop information will be mailed if accepted):

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work Email: _____

Personal Email: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Name of School or Organization: _____

City, State of School or Organization: _____

Grades and Subjects Taught or Target Audiences Reached:

Approximate Number of Students You Teach or Approximate Number of
Individuals Reached) in a Year: (This is for our records ONLY; we are
looking for quality as much, or more than, quantity.) _____

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

- Have you participated in this program before? What year?
- Where did you hear about this program (i.e. specific listserv, friend, etc.)?
- Before this announcement, had you ever heard about the Gulf of Mexico Foundation? If yes, in what capacity?
- Before this announcement, had you ever heard about Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary? If yes, in what capacity?

2. EXPEDITION PURPOSE

The purpose of the Intracoastal Waterway Wetlands Expedition (IWWE) is to introduce teachers to the amazing coastal habitats, flora, and fauna of the Upper Texas and Louisiana coasts. Trained naturalists will be on board to present lectures and lead the exploration of this water world that is the heart of the Gulf of Mexico. Topics such as economy, ecology, sustainability, water quality, and population dynamics will be discussed. Industry representatives will also be on board to discuss the importance of industry and how it relates to our living Gulf Coast. It is expected that the participants will actively participate in discussions as well as incorporate lessons learned into the curriculum they present to their students.

The Intracoastal Waterway is a 3,000-mile waterway along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the United States. Some lengths consist of natural inlets, salt-water rivers, bays, and sounds; others are man-made canals. The waterway runs for most of the length of the Eastern Seaboard, from its unofficial northern terminus at the Manasquan River in New Jersey, where it connects with the Atlantic Ocean at the Manasquan Inlet, to Brownsville, Texas.

3. SELECTION PROCESS

This is a competitive application process. Applications, essays, and letters of recommendation will be reviewed (with applicants names blacked out) and rated by a committee of three people. Only one of them will be an educator by profession, so please remember to limit “buzzwords”. For example, most non-educators will not know what “integrated classroom” means.

The top 24 workshop candidates will be placed on the roster first. Candidates 25-30 will be listed as alternates. All candidates will be notified of their selection by **May 7, 2012**.

4. REQUIRED ESSAY

Briefly describe how you plan to incorporate the knowledge and skills you expect to gain from this field experience into your current curriculum/program. Typed essays must have 1.0 inch margins at the top, bottom and on each side. The type size should be clear, readily legible, and must not be smaller than 10 point. The essay must not go over 2-one and one-half spaced pages. If you have ideas for specific activities or approaches for the course, please list them. It may be helpful to view photographs from 2011 which can be found on our website. **Remember, this is the primary basis for selection to the workshop.**

At a minimum, you should address the following questions:

- If you teach science, do you currently have a wetland/estuarine/marine unit? If so, how will you use this experience to enhance your existing unit(s)? Be as specific as possible.
- If you teach science, does it include coastal ecosystems? If so, how will you use this experience to enhance your existing unit(s)?
- If you have no wetland/estuarine/marine unit(s), do you expect to develop one as a result of this experience? How long will the unit be?
- Will you be working with teachers of other subjects to incorporate your new knowledge into their programs as well?
- If you are NOT a science teacher, how will you incorporate this experience into the subject(s) that you teach? Will you be working with science teachers to incorporate your knowledge into their units as well as your own?
- If you do not teach in a traditional classroom setting, how often will you use the knowledge of wetland/estuarine/marine ecosystems and issues you gain through this experience?

Please attach a typed response to your application.

5. REQUIRED LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

A letter of recommendation **MUST** be submitted with the application packet in a sealed envelope with signature on the back OR it can be e-mailed to suraida@gulfmex.org. If e-mailed, a confirmation email will be sent to the applicant and the sender with date received. It is the applicant's responsibility to assure the all application materials, **INCLUDING** the letter of recommendation, are received by the deadline.

Please have your principal, vice-principal, dean, or supervisor type up a letter of recommendation addressing your professional qualifications, character traits that make you a strong candidate for program (i.e. what makes you a special or stand-out candidate in this competition), plus any reservations he/she may have about you participating in the program, if any.

6. PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

The program will be conducted aboard the M/V Fling a 100-foot vessel Coast Guard rated for passenger transport and support. The vessel has air-conditioned bunk space for 30 passengers, plus crew. Passenger bunks are 4 per bedroom. It has ample deck space on two levels. Amenities include a galley and three restrooms. The Fling has state-of-the-art navigation and communication electronics and 110-volt electrical service. The crew consists of two Coast Guard licensed captains with the support of galley and deck staff. The majority of the trip will be conducted in the protected waters of the Intracoastal Waterway. During the workshop leaders may elect to leave the protected waters of the Intracoastal Waterway and travel some distance in the open waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Along the way, some time may be spent exploring coastal habitats in small outboard powered boats and/or kayaks.

Stairs leading to the bunk area below and the upper deck are steep. Participants must be able to navigate these stairs safely. Live marine samples may be collected using hand pulled seines and plankton nets. Applicants must consider personal physical abilities accordingly.

For safety reasons, the Gulf of Mexico Foundation reserves the right to disqualify any candidate based on the physical ability requirements for living and working on a water vessel.

7. LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

The M/V Fling will depart from Freeport, Texas the Sunday morning and return to Freeport, Texas late afternoon on Friday. The expedition will travel on the Intracoastal Waterway between Freeport, Texas and Louisiana.

Aboard the ship, hot meals will be served three times per day, plus snacks and non-alcoholic beverages will be available at all times. Alcoholic beverages can be purchased during the "off" hours. All food and non-alcoholic beverages are provided through the generosity of the Gulf of Mexico Foundation partners.

Dress is casual, and participants should plan on wearing cool summer clothing and sleeping wardrobe appropriate for mixed gender in shared bunkrooms. Pillows and bed linens are provided. Participants should bring their own personal toiletries. Plenty of sun screen, a hat, and sunglasses are highly recommended. A comprehensive list will be given to those accepted to the program.

A program fee \$100 will be collected from participants that will cover meals and lodging once the vessel leaves the dock and until the vessel returns to the dock. Participants must pay for their own travel and lodging expenses incurred in traveling to Freeport and in returning home, plus for any souvenirs such as t-shirts, etc. **NO REFUNDS** will be given for airfare, lodging, etc. costs if the IWWE is cancelled due to unforeseen inclement weather conditions or other events that are out of the control of the Gulf of Mexico Foundation.