



## The Floating Classroom: A Discovery Cruise & Coastal Studies Program

Held Aboard The M/V Karma & Within The Matagorda Harbor  
Learning Pavilion, Operated by The Sea Grant Extension  
Program of Texas A&M University

### Student Group Enrollment Form

#### Important Planning Information

1. Due to safety concerns, The Floating Classroom: A Discovery Cruise & Coastal Studies Program is open to school-age children who are at least 9 years old, or at least in the fourth grade.
2. If you are booking multiple dates, please use a separate form for each day your group will be participating. An information packet containing all pertinent details needed to prepare for this field trip will be mailed to student group sponsors once this completed form is received.
3. Reservations will be accepted from public, private, or home school groups as well as non-school youth groups such as Scouts, Boys/Girls Clubs, 4-H, etc. Scholarships that defray a portion of the total program cost may be available for these groups.
4. The total cost is \$1,000.<sup>00</sup> per day. To confirm your requested date a \$300.<sup>00</sup> deposit is required. Telephone or e-mail reservations will be accepted, but your requested date will not be confirmed until your deposit is received. **In other words, your reservation could be cancelled unless we receive your deposit in a timely manner.** To be fair, if another group requests the day you have requested, you will be notified by phone that you have 10 working days to get your deposit to our office. For example, if two groups request the same date but your \$300.<sup>00</sup> deposit arrives prior to the other group's, that group will be bumped from your day. **All payments should be made by check or money order and made payable to Texas A&M University.**
5. The Discovery Cruise and Coastal Studies Program is a full-day program and consists of five contact hours. These five hours include a cruise aboard the M/V Karma and an equal amount of time spent at various educational stations within the Matagorda Harbor Learning Pavilion or different field study sites.
6. A one-day, one-group booking cannot exceed fifty-four individuals. This number should include all participants – youth as well as adult leaders or chaperones – who will attend the Discovery Cruise and Coastal Studies Program. Also, the \$1,000.<sup>00</sup> cost for groups from public schools, private schools, and youth organizations covers a maximum of **four** accompanying adults. Additional adult learners may participate at a cost of \$12.<sup>50</sup> per person. Adults accompanying home-school groups are not bound by this stipulation because they will be directly involved in the youngsters' progress.
7. Please mail the completed enrollment/scholarship form (which follows) and your \$300.<sup>00</sup> deposit to Texas A&M University, P.O. Box 18, Matagorda, TX, 77467.

8. Please contact Laura Beach or William Younger at 979/863-2940 for any questions you may have. Your questions can also be emailed to <w-younger@tamu.edu>.
9. This enrollment/scholarship form can be completed in one of two ways, but must be mailed along with your \$300.<sup>00</sup> deposit.
  - a. You can print the blank form and fill in the required information with a typewriter or by hand.
  - b. You can also complete the enrollment/scholarship form online. If you use the free Adobe Reader®, remember that you can enter information onto the form from your PC and print it, but you cannot save the completed form. (You can, however, download and save the blank form to your PC.) If you have Adobe Acrobat® software, you can also save the form with any information you have entered intact.

## **Scholarship Application Form**

### **Background Information**

1. Financial assistance to your group may range from 50 percent (\$500.<sup>00</sup>) to 70 percent (\$700.<sup>00</sup>) of the \$1,000.<sup>00</sup> full daily fee. Scholarship recipients receive only credit for the amount awarded – no funds are transferred.
2. The amount of the scholarship is determined by two factors: (i) the funds available at the time of application, and (ii) the needs of the group which must be documented below. Vague, subjective statements concerning the socioeconomic disadvantages or circumstances faced by a group make it difficult to assess the need for a scholarship. Far more importance is placed on verifiable need indicators of your group when assessing an application. This does not imply that intangible details will not be reviewed and considered during the decision making process. It only suggests that verifiable information makes our support of deserving groups a much easier and more objective task.
3. Without exception, each group that participates in the Floating Classroom Program must cover a portion of the cost. Furthermore, all groups must make the \$300.<sup>00</sup> enrollment deposit for each day they participate.
4. All information contained in the application must be reviewed and approved by the highest ranking member of the group intending to participate and applying for financial assistance. Submission of a scholarship application is taken by the Texas Marine Advisory Service of the Texas A&M University System to imply that if a scholarship is awarded, the resources to support other facets of participation in this education field trip are available to this group (i.e., transportation, travel funds, chaperones, etc.).
5. Forfeiture of both the scholarship and the required deposit will result if the group is a “no-show.” Groups will also forfeit their scholarship and the deposit if they fail to cancel their original reservation at least 15 working days prior to participation and make an earnest effort to reschedule for a later date.
6. This scholarship program is supported by gifts or grants, and does not represent expenditures of any funds directly allocated to the Texas A&M University System by the state or federal government for line-item education or research purposes. Dispersal of scholarship funds is overseen by a committee that evaluates the needs and objectives of the group applying for financial assistance.
7. If granted a scholarship, the applicant must submit a letter within 120 days of their Floating Classroom Program participation stating what academic and teaching benefits resulted from this experience. Future applications by the group will not be considered unless a follow-up letter has been received by the Floating Classroom Program that states how the participants benefitted from the Discovery Cruise and Coastal Studies experience.

# Student Group Enrollment and Scholarship Form

Enrollment Information (Please provide us with the following information)

## A. Information Regarding Your Group

_____ Name of school or group (only one school or group per day per form)		
_____ Mailing Address		
_____ City	_____ State	_____ Zip Code

## B. Responsible Adult Accompanying Your Group

_____ Name of the group's lead teacher, school administrator, or adult chaperone		
_____ Mailing Address		
_____ City	_____ State	_____ Zip Code
_____ Daytime Phone	_____ Evening Phone	
_____ Cell Phone	_____ E-Mail Address	

## C. Your Preferred Dates for The Discovery Cruise and Coastal Studies Program

_____ 1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	_____ 2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice	_____ 3 <sup>rd</sup> Choice
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**D. The Composition of Your Group** (Please complete both sides of this table)

Grades and Number of Students in Each Grade				Students, Teachers, & Chaperones in your group	
	Grade		Number of Students		Total number of Students
	Grade		Number of Students		Total number of Teachers
	Grade		Number of Students		Total number of Chaperones
			Total number of Students		Total number in group, 54 max.

1. Remember, the \$1,000.<sup>00</sup> cost for groups **other than home-school organizations** covers a maximum of 4 adults. Additional adults may participate at a cost of \$12.<sup>50</sup> each. Remember that the group maximum is 54 people.

**E. Your Preference for Publicity in Hometown Newspapers**

If you want a captioned photograph of your group sent to your local newspaper(s), please provide the name of the paper and an e-mail address. If you leave this section blank, we will interpret that as your preference to avoid such publicity, and nothing will be sent.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Editor's Name                      Newspaper                      Email Address
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Editor's Name                      Newspaper                      Email Address
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Editor's Name                      Newspaper                      Email Address

**Scholarship Application Information**

**F. Justification for Scholarship**

\_\_\_\_\_

The Amount Requested (Please provide an honest estimate of need. Scholarships range from 50 to 70 percent and are credited against the daily cost recovery fee of \$1,000.<sup>00</sup>/group).

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of students enrolled in the school

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of students classified as "At Risk" in the school (Federal Title I enrollment)

**G. Anticipated Classroom Use of Floating Classroom Program Information**

In the space below, please prepare a brief statement explaining how this hands-on, interactive learning experience will benefit the participating members of your group. Special attention should be given to how you feel this unique field instruction will enhance classroom instruction.

**Checklist Before Mailing Your Enrollment/Scholarship Form and Deposit**

1. Please ensure that you have completed all parts of this form and enclosed your group's \$300.<sup>00</sup> deposit before mailing it!
2. Please review the list of the "Important Planning Information" section thoroughly and contact us if you have any questions.
3. Please sign this form to indicate that you have carefully read and completed the enrollment/scholarship form and, to the best of your ability, will ensure that all provisions associated with participation are met!
4. If you are seeking a scholarship, please submit this form at least 45 working days prior to the earliest trip date requested.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_