It’s Back-to-School Season!

Of course summer went too fast! It always does, but we are so excited to be offering Teacher Workshops again after taking the summer off. For our returning teachers, you will be seeing a new face at these workshops. Emily Lind is the new K-12 School Programs Coordinator for the Aquarium. She is eager to kickoff Teacher Workshops and meet all of you!

So, what’s in store for fall 2022 Teacher Workshops?

We will still be meeting the last Wednesday of each month (October’s session will be one week earlier due to Scarium at the Aquarium). We have adjusted our meeting time to be 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to hopefully accommodate more teachers. Workshops will be held in-person at the Aquarium. Each week we will dive into one of our many teacher resource kits that are free to check out for a two-week period.

September 2022 — Teacher Workshop — Wild Rice Detectives

The City of Duluth and the surrounding region rests on the traditional Indigenous land of the Lake Superior Anishinaabe(Ojibwe) people. Anishinaabe people knew they had reached their chosen ground when they found the “food that grows on water.” September is peak harvest time for wild rice. Also called Manoomin, wild rice was once abundant in the St. Louis River Estuary but several factors have lead to the decline in wild rice abundance and distribution. The Wild Rice Detectives kit challenges students to find out why.

Cost is FREE

Continuing Education Units are available

Kit Title: Wild Rice Detectives

Kit Description: Students will learn about the life cycle of wild rice and traditional harvest methods. They will compare and contrast a satellite image of the St. Louis River Estuary with a historical map of the same area. Finally, they will be presented with real life scientific data effecting wild rice growth today and will apply inquiry based scientific methods to solve the mysteries presented to them.

Date: Wednesday, September 27, 2022
Time: 4:30 p.m. — 6:30 p.m.
Location: Great Lakes Aquarium
353 Harbor Dr.
Duluth, MN 55803
Register Here: LINK — Registration is open until September 27
Seasonal Activity — Popped Wild Rice

Wild rice is delicious and nutritious! Filled with vitamins, fiber, and protein, it is a great snack to make with your students. Wild rice pops the same way popcorn does. Bits of moisture left in the rice after drying turns to steam and forces the whole seed to “pop” open when it gets hot. Wild rice can be popped in oil on the stove, or better yet, over a campfire!

Use these resources to find a wild rice recipe that you and your students want to try!

Popped Wild Rice
https://jamiegeller.com/recipes/popped-wild-rice/

Manoomin Breakfast Porridge
https://freshwaterfeasts.com/2020/11/03/a-berry-tasty-manoomin-wild-rice-breakfast/

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Monnie Goldfine Teacher Resource enter

Please reach out with questions or suggestions!

UPDATES from the Aquarium:

Teacher Resource Center
FREE Educational kits are available! Check out the TRC website to browse lesson plans and descriptions of the available kits. Pick up and drop off kits at Great Lakes Aquarium. Kits can be checked out for up to two weeks!

NOAA Professional Development Mini Series
This October the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is partnering with GLA to host a three part virtual Professional Development Mini Series. This fall’s topic is Seamounds! Find information and registration here!

Outreaches & Field Trips
GLA offers field trips and outreaches. Visit the website to Request an Outreach or Schedule a Field Trip. If you have questions, call (218) 740—2000 or education@glaquarium.org.

Scarium at the Aquarium
Spend Halloween at the Aquarium this year! Explore a spookily-decorated Aquarium, trick-or-treating among the exhibits, and show off your creative costumes! We will provide crafts, projects, and games as well as activity materials to take home and enjoy. Register Here!