



Welcome Oceanography Camp for Girls 2022 Campers

Meet the OCG Leaders & Science Mentors



Teresa Greely, PhD – Program Director

Welcome to the USF College of Marine Science (CMS)! I am Teresa, and one of my joy job's is to direct the Oceanography Camp for Girls each summer. My first OCG was in 1992 when I was a graduate student in the CMS. I graduated twice from USF, as a marine biologist and then as a science educator. My research has been exploring ocean literacy to help understand what people know about, feel about, and would do for the ocean; and, marine ecology research to help understand how fishes are adapted to live where they live in the ocean, and their contribution to global carbon cycling. This amazing career in ocean sciences and education has taken me to many places---aboard an icebreaker in the Southern Ocean to study deep sea fishes, diving in submersibles for jellies, aboard the

R/V *Atlantis* to film hydrothermal vents with Alvin, and sailing aboard the R/V *Joides Resolution* to collect sediment cores from the deep ocean floor. Each work day I have the privilege of teaching and training college students, teachers, and K-12 students about the ocean, and helping develop teaching, leadership, and communication skills. For fun I listen to music, read, cycle, hike, volunteer, and spend time with family and friends. Every year is filled with new adventures. I look forward to making positive memories with each of you.



Makenzie Kerr, M.S. – OCG Coordinator

Hi campers! My name is Makenzie. I was a camper in 2009 and returned to camp in 2018 as a science mentor. Growing up in Saint Petersburg, FL, I have always loved the ocean and the animals that live there. I graduated from USF's College of Marine Science with a Master's degree and my work focuses on DNA barcoding, which allows me to identify fish eggs using their genetic material instead of their physical features. I currently work as an OCG coordinator and as a Lab Manager & Outreach Coordinator at USF. I absolutely love sharing my passion for the ocean with others. My

favorite part of OCG is teaching girls about the smallest creatures in the oceans, like plankton, baby fish, and bacteria, and seeing their faces light up when they see something new.



Tiff Raetzel – OCG Fellow

Ahoy campers! My name is Tiff, and I am a master's student at the College of Marine Science! I am originally from Michigan, and I got my bachelor's degree in environmental engineering from the University of Michigan! Go Blue! I am interested in understanding how humans and climate influence the structure and function of marine life. My research areas include fisheries ecology, ecosystem modeling, and sustainable fishing. More specifically, I use computer models to study natural and artificial reefs and how they respond to fishing pressure and harmful algal blooms. This is my second year with OCG, and I am the OCG Fellow this year! My favorite camp

memory was the compliment circle on our last day of camp where we go around sharing memories and reflecting on our time at camp! I am very excited to meet y'all and make some fun memories!



Michael Sipes - Science Mentor

Howdy, my name is Mike and I've been with OCG for 9 years now. I was born and raised here in Tampa Bay and received my degree in Marine Biology at USFSP. I'm currently a Science Teacher at Chamberlain High School here in Hillsborough County but I still enjoy getting back to my research roots from time to time. Putting my 25+ years of fishing experience to use, most of my past research has focused on studying fish populations here in Tampa Bay. However, in recent years my research has also branched out to include sponges and plankton. I have tons of awesome memories from camp but my favorites are usually fishing on the Research Vessel or my Fish Ecology Lab.



Becky Scott - Science Mentor

Hi campers! My name is Becky Scott and I'm a PhD student at the College of Marine Science. I've been interested in the ocean and marine biology since I was a little kid growing up in Pennsylvania, and so decided to make a career out of it! I received my undergraduate degree in Marine Biology from the University of Rhode Island and my master's degree in Biology from Georgia Southern University. My specific areas of interest are fisheries biology, ecosystem modeling, and sustainable fishing practices, and for my research at CMS I'm studying food web connections between the deep sea and

large predators such as tuna and swordfish. My favorite OCG memory is watching campers touch a fish for the first time and realize they love it! I'm looking forward to sharing my passion for the ocean, creating fun learning experiences, and making new memories with you at OCG this summer!



Brooke Loney - Science Mentor

Hey Hey! My name is Brooke Loney. I was a camper in 2011 and immediately fell in love with OCG. I became a Peer Counselor and eventually a Science Mentor, as I am now! I graduated with a B.S. from Florida Gulf Coast University where I majored in Marine Science minored in Geology. While attending FGCU I had the amazing opportunity to travel to South Africa where I studied the ocean life there, including great white sharks. Working with OCG made me realize that not only do I love the ocean, but I also really love teaching! After

graduating, I became a middle school science teacher at LCC Day School here in St. Pete. I absolutely love my job! OCG was a life changing experience for me and to this day continues to shape me as a person and as an educator.



Kylee Rullo - Science Mentor

Hi campers! My name is Kylee and I was born and raised on the Gulf Coast of Florida, so I've been around the ocean my whole life! I love being out in the field and on the water. I received my undergraduate degree in Marine Biology from Palm Beach Atlantic University and I am currently a Master's student in Dr. Steve Murawski's lab at USF's College of Marine Science. For my thesis, I am studying chemicals in the eye-lenses of yellowfin and blackfin tuna

to look at their migration and trophic patterns in the Gulf of Mexico. By studying Gulf fish, I hope to provide relevant research that helps keep fish populations healthy and flourishing. This is my second year as a science mentor at OCG and I'm excited to make new memories this year!



Savanna Finley – Science Mentor

Hello fellow ocean lovers! I grew up on the Panhandle of Florida loving the ocean and always wanting to be a part of something ocean related (I even found a ocean loving husband I married underwater because I love the ocean so much!) Sharks are my main ocean passion since I was little but I especially fell in love with them after I watched my first shark movie (Jaws) at the age of 8. I graduated from UWF in 2019 with my Bachelor's in Marine Biology, during this time I focused on working with the Navarre Beach Marine Science Station to teach grades 3-8 marine science! I moved in 2020 to

Sarasota Fl to start an internship at Mote Marine Lab, naturally a global pandemic cut that short. On a fluke I applied and then pursued my Master's in Curriculum and Instruction of Science Education at USF. I graduated in 2021 and am now starting the Ph.D. Program for Curriculum and Instruction of Science Education also at USF! I am currently a Marine Science Teacher at Parrish Community High School and loving the experience in the classroom. I can't wait to get back to my summer camp roots and make some amazing memories with you all!



Alec Timpe – Science Mentor

Hello Campers! My name is Alec Timpe, and I am a biological oceanography PhD Student at the USF College of Marine Science. I have always wanted to be a marine scientist and I am thrilled to be studying here in Florida! In my research, I study how animals respond to changes in temperature and ocean deoxygenation to understand how they will cope with warming oceans. I am also interested in invasive species and study why, where, and how they invade new environments. I hope that my research can help protect aquatic resources and help us sustainably

enjoy what the ocean has to offer.



Jessica Van Vaerenbergh – Science Mentor

Hello Campers! My name is Jess and I am a graduate student at the USF's College of Marine Science seeking a Master's degree in Marine Resource Management. I was born and raised in Tampa, Florida. I have spent my entire life exploring the ocean and now I am lucky enough to study it every day! I earned my bachelor's degree in Marine Science from the University of Florida and have studied reef fish populations for many years. Currently, I am interested in how humans are changing the behaviors of reef fish on our local reefs due to fishing pressures. I have a passion for ocean conservation,

and I cannot wait to share them with you all! This summer will be my first year at OCG and I am very excited to meet everyone and see all the amazing things you all will be learning! This summer is going to be a blast!



Shannon Riley – Science Mentor

Hi everyone! My name is Shannon Riley and I am a first-time science mentor this year! I just finished my first year of graduate school at USF St. Petersburg, where I am a master's student in marine science with a concentration in biological oceanography. I grew up in north Idaho, in the inland northwest, and I was introduced to the ocean through family trips. Those inspired my interest in the ocean, so I went to Oregon

State University for my undergraduate degrees in marine biology and ocean science. I love looking at different marine animals and understanding where they live and what environmental conditions they prefer. My current research focuses on the distribution and abundance of larval squid and octopus in the Gulf of Mexico, which means I get to look at cute baby squid! I'm looking forward to learning even more about Florida ecosystems, since I'm still fairly new to the area. I'm excited for a fun camp with you all!



Emily Ritz – Science Mentor

I joined the Oceanography Camp for Girls as a camper in 2011 and have been around ever since! I was lucky enough to come back as a Peer Counselor until I graduated from Seminole High School in 2015, then as a Sr. Counselor. I am so excited to now be returning as a Science Mentor! I graduated from Furman University in Greenville, SC with a B.S. in Earth and Environmental Sciences and a minor in Latin American Studies. During my time at Furman I had the opportunity to travel, participating in various levels of research, field studies, and internships on 3 different continents! My favorite

OCG memories definitely stem from the enduring friendships camp has given me. In 8th grade I could have never imagined that, as an adult, I would travel to Africa to wrestle Great White sharks with some fellow OCGers, science enthusiasts, and lifelong friends. When I'm not traveling, I enjoy spending long days on the boat, petting every dog I come into contact with, and going to as many concerts as possible. My experiences with OCG have continuously fostered my curiosity and sense of adventure which has driven me to pursue a career in marine science. I have worked as a marine biologist and environmental educator at Clearwater Marine Aquarium and as a technician in the coastal wetlands biogeochemistry lab right next door at the FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute! I hope to continue my education on a graduate level soon. Currently I am teaching middle school science at LCC Day School in St. Petersburg. I am looking forward to another great year at OCG!



Ella Hasty – Senior Counselor

Hello everyone! My name is Ella Hasty and I'm super excited to work my first year of OCG. I'm originally from Orlando, and I've been in the Tampa Bay area pursuing my undergraduate degree in Marine Biology for the last couple of years. I'm super interested in deep sea biology and extremophile adaptations. I've loved being around the ocean my whole life growing up in Florida, and being able to study it has only made me love it more. I was a student under Dr. Greely, and this

camp is such a wonderful place to learn. I'm so thrilled to make some memories with you all!



Jason Thomas – Senior Counselor

Hi campers! I'm Jason and currently pursuing an Environmental Science and Policy Degree at USF. I absolutely love the Tampa Bay Estuary and spend as much time around it as possible. And, recently I was lucky enough to take Dr. Greely's Introduction to Oceanography course which introduced me to this amazing opportunity with OCG. Here, I look forward to sharing my passion of Florida's nature with young people. We thank you and look forward to meeting you all.

2022 Peer Counselors



Madie – Peer Counselor

Hi everybody! My name is Madie, & I'm super excited to meet all of you this summer. This will be my second year as a peer counselor, and I couldn't be more ready. I was a camper in 2019 & I absolutely loved it! One of my favorite memories has to be when I got to be a part of the ANGARI research vessel expedition. We got the chance to be out on the boat & use real equipment to test real oceanic conditions. I got to test visibility, salinity, oxygen levels, & so much more. Working in the field with professionals was incredible- nothing like I had ever done before. It was an amazing experience! On that trip, I was able to meet some

pretty cool people & form stronger friendships with the other girls. Every day at OCG was full of unforgettable moments & memories that will last a lifetime. I can't wait to see everyone, let's make this summer one to remember!



Juanita – Peer Counselor

Hey campers i'm Juanita and I was a camper in 2019! Participating in OCG was one of the best experiences I've had and everything we did at camp was super exciting. I have a couple favorite memories from camp but these two are the best. First when we went to St. Pete beach early in the morning to collect shells while no one was there. The beach was peaceful, and the water was amazing. My other favorite memory is when we went aboard the ANGARI, a research vessel and got to learn all about the ship and do some research for ourselves. This year I am looking forward to helping all of you guys and making sure you have the best summer at camp!!



Kylie – Peer Counselor

Hey everyone! My name is Kylie, and I am thrilled to be a part of OCG for another summer of fun and adventure! I was a 2020 camper, but our camp experience got delayed until 2021 due to COVID. That turned out to be a blessing in disguise, though, because otherwise I wouldn't have met some of the incredible people I got to know last summer. I made some great friends and got to share unforgettable moments with them. OCG was an experience that I will forever be grateful for, and I am so excited to get to make some more memories with all of you this summer!

Larimar – Peer Counselor

I am Larimar Vasquez Rios and I went to OCG camp 2019, I am so excited to meet and make new friends!



Abby L – Peer Counselor

I am from St.Petersburg fl, I just graduated from Calvary Christian High school and will attend St.Petersburg College/ USF in the fall, I plan to study Marine Science. I was an OCG camper in 2018 and my favorite OCG memory is when we were on the cruise and we all drank plankton.



Sarah – Peer Counselor

Hii!! My name is Sarah and I'm ecstatic to be a peer counselor this year at OCG. I was a 2020 camper, so my initial camp experience was virtual, but in 2021 I was lucky enough to experience the camp with the 2020 and 2021 campers in person! OCG was a very special experience to me; I got to use lab equipment to collect real data and learned a lot about the environment, my peers, and myself along the way. The field trips, the activities, the science, the van rides, the singing, and the

community all made my camp experience something to be treasured. Now, let's make OCG of 2022 even more memorable! See you at camp!!



Delaney – Peer Counselor

Hey guys! I'm Delaney and I'm from Clearwater Fl, and I currently attend Clearwater Highschool. I attended OCG in 2019 and my favorite OCG memory is when we spent the day at the Clam Bayou and we learned about deep sea fish and tides and a whole bunch of different things. It seems kind of silly to say but I think of my 2019 summer a lot, and how much this camp affected me. The camp really deepened my passion for the ocean and made

oceanography one of my top major choices for college in the future. I also met a lot of cool people and I can't wait to see them again this summer and meet new people as well! I can't wait to see you guys!



Abby A – Peer Counselor

Hi guys! My name is Abby and I was a camper in 2019. I'll be a peer counselor this summer and I'm so excited to meet all the new campers and be able to share the OCG experience with everyone this year. My favorite memory from camp was going on the boat and looking at samples under the microscope, but every day was super fun. I'm going to be a senior this fall and I'm planning on studying aerospace engineering when I go off to college. I'm so excited to meet all of you!

Alexis – Peer Counselor

Lindsey – Peer Counselor

Hailey – Peer Counselor

Kayla – Peer Counselor