



Our students will lead and shape the future

News release

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Teacher sets sail for 16 days to survey sharks at sea

Monroe Elementary teacher, Barney Peterson, sails again with Teacher at Sea program



Last summer, it was NASA space camp. This summer, it's sailing with NOAA to survey sharks. Teacher Barney Peterson brings her real-world adventures back to the classroom.

Barney Peterson, a fourth-grade teacher at Monroe Elementary School, will set sail August 13 to assist scientists on a 16-day survey of sharks in the Gulf of Mexico. This is not Peterson's first voyage at sea. Peterson is an alumna of NOAA's [Teacher at Sea program](#), which bridges science and education through real-world research experiences. She first sailed with NOAA in 2006. This year, Peterson was selected for a second venture through a separate, alumni-only application process.

"I am very excited to participate in another wonderful NOAA experience," Peterson says. "My past adventures have helped build a rich background to share with my students as we learn about how all the parts of our earth work together. The Gulf of Mexico is an area where I have never been and I am eager to learn about the ecosystem there."

Peterson will board NOAA Ship Oregon II in Port Canaveral, Florida, and work side by side with scientists to conduct an ongoing

survey of shark and red snapper populations in the southeastern United States. Follow Peterson's adventure through her [Teacher at Sea blog](#).

"NOAA's Teacher at Sea Program gives teachers the professional opportunity of a lifetime with a chance to participate in cutting edge science, on the ocean, working side-by-side with world-renowned scientists," says Jennifer Hammond, the program's director. "Teachers describe this authentic research experience as transformative and one that allows them to bring new knowledge and excitement back to their classrooms."

Now in its 26th year, the program has provided more than 700 teachers the opportunity to gain first-hand experience participating in science at sea. The educators chosen are

able to enrich their curricula with the depth of understanding they gain by living and working side-by-side with scientists studying the marine environment.

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For more information:

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