

# SPONSORING TOMORROW'S OCEAN LEADERS



NATIONAL OCEAN  
SCIENCES BOWL®



# NATIONAL OCEAN SCIENCES BOWL

## What is the NOSB?

The National Ocean Sciences Bowl® (NOSB) is a nationally recognized and highly acclaimed high school academic competition. The NOSB provides a forum for talented students to **excel in science and math** and introduces team members, their teachers/coaches, schools, and communities to ocean sciences as an interdisciplinary field of study and a possible career path. The program **engages the ocean science research community** in pre-college education and **stimulates broad interest in – and excitement about – science and the ocean** as students learn ocean-related topics in physics, chemistry, biology, geology, geography, social science, technology, and policy. Each year, 25 regional competitions are held across the U.S., with the winner from each region advancing to the national Finals Competition. The location of Finals changes each year to offer students new experiences, learning opportunities, and exposure to the different regions, universities, and communities.

## Why an Ocean Sciences Bowl?

There are a number of academic opportunities available to high school students, including other competitions and general science programs. What makes the NOSB different and important?

The focus on ocean sciences is important from two perspectives. First, from an impact perspective, ocean science has integral connections to our **understanding of global climate; ecosystem resilience; food availability; and security, energy, and maritime business sustainability**. Second, ocean science is by nature multidisciplinary and provides an ideal platform for STEM learning and for integrating principles of physics, chemistry, biology, geology, and mathematics. In preparing for—and competing in—the NOSB, **students learn basic scientific principles and apply them to complex problems**, thereby providing a richer STEM education and exposing them to ocean science topics not generally available in high school curriculums.

## Goals of the NOSB:

Develop knowledgeable ocean citizens;

Foster the use of the ocean as an interdisciplinary vehicle to teach science and mathematics;

Support the involvement of under-represented and diverse communities in the ocean sciences; and

Provide students with interactive education and skills for careers in the ocean sciences and other STEM fields.



## Who is involved?

Since 1998, **27,000 students** have participated in the NOSB. Each year, the NOSB engages more than 350 individual high schools and **1,200 volunteers** from the ocean science community. The NOSB is **more than just an academic competition** as students also learn critical-thinking techniques and build their teamwork skills. Moreover, the program has worked to increase its reach to students outside the competition through enhancement activities, including a professional development webinar series for teachers to include ocean sciences in their lessons.

## What the NOSB offers

The NOSB offers year-round academic elements and enhancements in addition to the competition framework, including:

- Summer award trips that provide **hands-on research experience**;
- Scholarships to encourage NOSB alumni to continue their **focus on STEM** fields in college;
- A Science Expert Briefing to highlight the importance of science in policy decisions and students' ability to apply their knowledge to **real-life issues**;
- Professional development seminars to **help teachers** stay current on science research and teaching tools;
- A free online game that allows the NOSB ocean science content to reach an even broader and more diverse audience; and
- Career events to educate students on the variety of **ocean-related career paths**.

*"The NOSB helped me make my decision to study science. [It] was the final push I needed to realize that science...was something I needed to pursue forever."*

*Allison Nall, past student participant in the NOSB's Spoonbill Bowl (Florida)*



## Why support the NOSB?

Supporting the NOSB means helping to **shape tomorrow's leaders** in the workforce. As companies and organizations with future employment needs, you know how critical it is for our society to develop the best talent. Given the current socio-economic, environmental, and educational issues that exist, it is critical that our nation's business and community leaders help to prepare students to successfully meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Support for the NOSB means **direct engagement** for your organization with a community of **talented students**, their families and teachers, to demonstrate to them your organization's commitment to the next generation. The NOSB attracts high achieving students and prepares them for STEM careers by instilling critical thinking and leadership skills and exposing them to the broad spectrum of ocean science careers. The NOSB engages students at a time when they are exploring life and career choices and, by nurturing their interest in science, helps them see themselves as **future scientists, technical experts, and ocean stewards**.

Because the NOSB offers experiences beyond competition, partnerships with a broad community of supporters are important. **Your involvement with the NOSB includes opportunities to:**

- Promote your organization as a possible future employer;
- Increase STEM workforce diversity through NOSB's diversity initiatives with students from 'under-resourced' schools and student populations underrepresented in science;
- Network with a community of government agencies, academic communities (high school to graduate research institutions), NOSB alum, families, students, and the general public; and
- Feature your organization in the NOSB press releases, newsletters, and promotional materials.

**The NOSB offers a variety of sponsorship opportunities to match sponsor interests and levels of support. Our Sponsorship Opportunities and Benefits document outlines those opportunities and associated benefits as a starting point for sponsorship discussions.**

## The NOSB's Impact

### A long-term study of NOSB alumni recently found:

45% percent of graduates stated they are employed in an occupation or organization that is clearly STEM related

41% agreed that participating in the NOSB influenced their career choice

39% indicated the NOSB influenced their choice of college major

### A parallel study of NOSB coaches, who are professional secondary educators, found:

80% agreed that the NOSB increased student interest in science

70% agreed being an NOSB coach has resulted in them increasing the infusion of ocean sciences in their classrooms

19 schools/districts have implemented a marine science class due directly to the high schools' participation in the NOSB

### The NOSB's Media Reach: 2010-2012

**Total circulation for past three years: 51,621,625**

Through 462 Print, broadcast and online articles from a wide variety of outlets across the United States, including Associated Press and USA Today

*"For the past decade, BOEM has co-sponsored the National Ocean Sciences Bowl, recognizing how important it is to support our future ocean scientists, and potential employees."*

Mary Boatman, Ph.D.,  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

*“Over the next few decades we will depend on **champions** like those [participating in the NOSB] to further our **understanding** [of our oceans] and ensure that we are good **stewards** of these important natural resources.”*

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*Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher, Jr., U.S. Navy (retired),  
Former Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere  
and NOAA Administrator*



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The NOSB is managed by the Consortium for Ocean Leadership.  
For more information about the NOSB, visit [www.nosb.org](http://www.nosb.org) or contact:

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*The NOSB is a 501(c)3, your support can be focused toward the general program,  
to specific regions, or toward academic scholarships and educational experiences.*