

## Education and Outreach



Robert Smalls, 1870. Photo: Navy Historical Center



Adm. Michelle Howard. Photo: NOAA



Moe Molinar. Photo: Historical Research & Development, Inc.



Courtesy of Mystic Seaport

# Voyage to Discovery Essay Contest

America's greatest museum of our past as a seafaring nation lies on the bottom of the ocean and Great Lakes in the national marine sanctuaries. The National Marine Sanctuary System managed by NOAA consists of 14 marine protected areas that encompass more than 170,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington State to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The system includes 13 national marine sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. **Prehistoric sites, shipwrecks, and naval battlefields are protected by sanctuaries.** National marine sanctuaries are places to explore, discover and appreciate our country's maritime cultural heritage. That heritage is a legacy of thousands of years of settlement, exploration, immigration, harvesting the bounty of the seas, and creating coastal communities and maritime traditions. Through the study, protection and promotion of this diverse legacy, sanctuaries help Americans learn more about our past.

**Voyage to Discovery** is a national marine sanctuary multimedia educational initiative **highlighting African-American contributions to the country's maritime heritage** while fostering increased participation in marine careers and ocean conservation.

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation in collaboration with NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is conducting a **national essay contest** open to all junior high and high school students in the United States. The essay contest will run from **January 15 through April 15, 2013**. The purpose of this contest is to encourage students to research and learn about African-American contributions to the maritime history of the United States. Applicants must submit an essay on an African-American individual or group who made a significant contribution to U.S. maritime history. Junior High School applicants must write and submit an essay of no more than two pages typed double-spaced and high school applicants must write and submit an essay of no longer than three pages typed double-spaced to participate. The essay has to be about a person or group of people who are NOT already profiled on the National Association of Black Scuba Divers (NABS) website (<http://www.nabsdivers.org/>), and the Voyage to Discovery website (<http://voyagetodiscovery.org>).

## PRIZES

**High School student winner will receive a \$1,500 scholarship** for post-secondary education  
**Junior High School student winner will receive a \$500 scholarship** for continuing education



Marcus Garvey. Credit: Library of Congress



Pea Island Life-Saving Station crew. Photo: U.S. Coast Guard



The Bear in the Arctic. Photo: U.S. Coast Guard



Captain Healy. Photo: U.S. Coast Guard

## All entries are due by April 15, 2013 Winners will be announced in June 2013

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State and Zipcode:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Age:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Pledge of Originality: I declare and avow that the essay that I am submitting to the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is my own original work.*

*By entering this essay contest, you are consenting to excerpts from your entry being posted on NOAA or NABS websites and/or publications. To qualify for prizes, all entries must be accompanied by a signed consent form from your parent/guardian and a current teacher of yours.*

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

## VOYAGE TO DISCOVERY



Photos courtesy of Voyage to Discovery Website (<http://voyagetodiscovery.org>)

### PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT FORM

I hereby grant and assign to NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, its assigns or successors, the non-exclusive paid-up, life-time, global right and permission, in respect of the original writing, artwork or photos that the above-named minor has submitted to NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, to use, re-use, publish, and re-publish, and otherwise reproduce, and display the same, individually or in conjunction with other artwork, writing, and photos, in any and all media now or hereafter known throughout the world, for illustration, promotion, art, advertising, and trade, or any other purpose whatsoever; and to use my child's first name to identify the author of the work in connection with his/her participation in the **Voyage to Discovery Essay Contest**.

I understand that any use of this submitted work will include my child's first name as its creator. I hereby release and discharge NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries from any and all claims and demands arising out of or in connection with the use of the original artwork, writing, and photos, including without limitation any and all claims for libel or invasion of privacy. NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries assumes no responsibility for lost or damaged poetry, artwork, or photos. NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries may assign, license, or otherwise transfer all rights granted to it hereunder. This authorization and release shall also inure to the benefit of the successors, legal representatives, licenses, and assigns of NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

This release shall be binding upon me and my heirs, legal representatives, and assigns. I further release NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries from any responsibility for injury incurred during the research or production of the original writing, artwork, and photos. I, \_\_\_\_\_, being the parent or guardian of the above-named minor, warrant that I am the parent and/or legal guardian of the above-named minor and am authorized to enter into this agreement, and I hereby consent to and join in the foregoing release and consent on behalf of said minor.

**Parent/Guardian Name (printed):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Signature of the student's current classroom teacher to simply acknowledge submission on behalf of student even if this was not an assignment given by this teacher.*

Email your essay with this completed application and signed consent form to:  
**[voyagetodiscovery@nmsfocean.org](mailto:voyagetodiscovery@nmsfocean.org)**

**Or mail it to:**  
Voyage to Discovery Essay Contest  
National Marine Sanctuary Foundation  
8601 Georgia Avenue, Suite 501  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910