Measuring Ocean Literacy
Youth Information Letter

Dear Youth,

My name is Matthew Cannady, and I am a researcher at the Lawrence Hall of Science at the University of California, Berkeley. I am doing a research study, and I’d like to tell you about it and ask if you will take part (be a “subject”) in it.

A research study is when people like me collect a lot of information about a certain thing to find out more about it. Before you decide if you want to be in this study, it’s important for you to understand why we’re doing the research and what’s involved.

Please read this form carefully. You can discuss it with your parents or anyone else. If you have questions about this research, just ask us.

My research team and I are doing this study to find out more about how kids in the age range 15 – 17 years old think about and experience marine science learning, so that we can help people design better science programs. We are asking many people around your age if they would like to participate.

If you agree to be in the study, we will ask you to complete an online or paper survey about your thoughts, attitudes, and opinions about marine science. The survey will take approximately 30 minutes. You are free to skip any questions you don’t want to answer.

You might get bored or tired and decide that you don’t want to finish all the survey. If this happens, just tell us you want to stop.

There is no benefit to you personally for taking part in this study. We hope that the results of the research will help us understand more about how youth in your age group think about marine science.

If we publish or share reports or give talks about this research, we will only discuss group results. We will not use your name or any other personal information that would identify you.

To protect confidentiality, we will not be collecting your name or any information that can be linked directly to you. We know that there are limitations to keeping data completely safe on the internet, but we will do everything we can to protect your confidentiality. We will store data on a computer that only researchers are allowed to use.

We plan to keep this information for five years, in case we or other researchers want to use it later for other studies. We will follow the same steps we just described to keep it as confidential as possible.

Research is something you do only if you want to. No one will get mad at you if you don’t want to be in
the study. If you decide to participate now, you can always stop if you change your mind. You can ask questions about this study at any time, now or later. You can talk to me, or your parents, or someone else if you like.

You can contact Matthew Cannady at mcannady@berkeley.edu or (510) 642-6281. If you have any questions regarding your child’s treatment or rights as a participant in this project, please contact the University of California at Berkeley’s Committee for Protection of Human Subjects at subjects@berkeley.edu or (510) 642-7461.

Sincerely,
Matthew Cannady
Director of Quantitative Research
The Research Group, Lawrence Hall of Science
University of California, Berkeley