



10/1/14

Dear Environmental Education Supporters,

The Virgin Islands Marine Advisory Service of the University of the Virgin Islands in association with Blue Flag USVI - Virgin Islands Conservation Society, the Reef Fest organizers, invite your agency, business or group to support through sponsorship the **St. Thomas Reef Fest on Sunday, November 9th, 2014 at Coral World Ocean Park, from 9am until 3pm.**

Over the last decade, the UVI's Center for Marine and Environmental Studies and federal and local partners, through high quality scientific research, have documented losses of over half of the live coral reef habitat around the territory. This unprecedented decline could adversely affect the invaluable ecological services corals provide in shoreline stability, water quality, nutrient recycling, and habitat for fish and related organisms.

Our thriving tourism industry intimately depends on the health of the marine environment, clarity of the ocean waters, and gorgeous beaches. Divers, snorkelers, boaters, beach goers, sailors and fishers repeatedly choose the Virgin Islands as their vacation destination, securing our multimillion dollar industry.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Status of the Reef Report 2008 asserts that without significant improvement in management efforts to reduce land based sources of pollution and increasing awareness of the fragility of the coral reef ecosystems, these corals will continue to be impacted by coral disease, bleaching and climate change. Educating the community about the value of the marine resources and the relationship between our activities on land and the sea is one way we can help reverse the decline in our coral reefs, while preserving our marine based tourism economy.

The goal of St. Thomas Reef Fest is to empower communities to protect their reefs and convey the importance of the marine resources. To this end, a diverse array of activities is being organized to ensure success in meeting our goals: to raise awareness of coral reef values, promote environmental stewardship, and strengthen natural resource management and conservation.

St. Thomas Reef Fest activities, facilitated by NGO's, Government agencies, private businesses, volunteers and members of VINE, include:

- Complimentary admission to Coral World Ocean Park –Explore five acres with exotic aquariums, outdoor pools, Undersea Observatory and nature trails.
- Interactive presentations at various exhibits throughout the park
- Interactive marine educational games and activities: Snorkel Clinics, Build a Castle, Scavenger Hunt, Reef Tours, Coastal Naturalist, Human Ocean Bingo and more...
- Expert local speakers in natural resource science and management;
- Environmental exhibits and activity booths from various government and community organizations, and displays by local agencies and programs;
- Local "green" vendors of both food and retail
- Composting Demo
- Live musical performances by local professionals and student artists, youth dance groups and "Reef Rap" Contest

On behalf of the Reef Fest organizers, we humbly request your participation. Your organization is welcome to join us by providing donations of goods and services, or prizes for games and activities; equipment loan or monetary donation to support supplies and giveaways; volunteer time; talent; and anything you are willing to contribute to make this a truly fun community-based event.

Your participation will be promoted and acknowledged within all Reef Fest correspondence, radio announcements, Facebook and newspaper advertisements, as a partner in Reef Fest. Any donations or proceeds raised at Reef Fest will go to environmental community outreach and education programs for the USVI territory.

We hope you consider assisting us in this important community sponsored event.

Please R.S.V.P. with the enclosed **sponsor form** by October 10th, through email or phone.

Thank you for supporting the conservation of our marine environment.

Sincerely,



Valerie Peters
Blue Flag USVI – Coordinator
And
Coral World Ocean Park – Marketing
(340) 775 1555 ext 246
marketing@coralworldvi.com



REEF FEST

Reef Fest 2014: Sponsorship Form

Please email this form by October 10th, 2014 to
Valerie Peters – marketing@coralworldvi.com or fax (340) 775-9068
OR
Howard Forbes – Howard.Forbes@live.uvi.edu

Name of organization: _____

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Sponsorship Opportunities:

- Goods and services _____
- Prizes for games and activities _____
- Raffle prizes _____
- Tax deductible monetary donation to support environmental educational programs _____
- Volunteer time _____
- Activities (kayak, paddle board,...) _____
- Other _____



Who: YOU, YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY!
What: Reef Fest 2014
When: Sunday, Nov. 9th, 2014. 9am—3pm
Where: Coral World Ocean Park (free admission) & Coki Beach
Why: Support your community in protecting our environment!

All proceeds go to environmental education.
Join in the fun while learning: treasure hunts, snorkel clinics, ocean bingo, paddleboard & SNUBA demo, sand castle building contest, other games, prizes, music, food, beverage and much more!

Contact Valerie Peters 775 1555 ext 246 or marketing@coralworldvi.com for more info!
We welcome businesses, organizations, groups, & students interested in showcasing **GREEN** initiatives and efforts at this venue. Sign up now!



