Dear Parent/Guardian of a SATS Camp Nominee:

Your child has been nominated by her/his science teacher to participate in the Saturday-at-the-Sea Summer Day Camp (SATS Camp). These free, 3 day to week-long day camps are funded by the Office of Science Teaching Activities at Florida State University. SATS Camp is designed to educate students about coastal resources and stimulate their interest in environmental science. The camp is always a fun and challenging introduction to this exciting field.

If accepted to SATS Camp, your child will be part of an environmental research team that will study the ecology of the Florida coast surrounding the Florida State University Marine Laboratory. During the week, we will explore marine habitats and conduct scientific studies. On the last day of the camp the students will make presentations about their week.

If your child is accepted into one of the camps you will need to provide your child with shorts/bathing suits, old tennis shoes, a sack lunch each day (dinner and breakfast will be provided for the overnighter), and a ride to and from the FSU campus each day (drop off 7:45 a.m. and pick-up 4:45 p.m). The day-camp groups will meet each morning at the FSU campus in Tallahassee, and travel by bus to and from the FSU Marine Laboratory (students from Wakulla/Franklin Counties will have alternate transportation options). There will be one overnight stay (Thursday) at the marine lab to do evening fieldwork. We will also require that you and your child attend a pre-camp orientation on Sunday 20 May 2012 from 12:00-2:00pm.

To give your child the best chance at being selected to participate, please help her/him to fill out the attached student application. Please make sure that all possible dates for participation are marked and ranked on the front page of the application form. They must also write a short essay about why they would like to attend the SATS Camp (on the back page of the application). Return completed application to your child's teacher as quickly as possible to ensure that the entire application packet can be returned to us on time (students must return their applications to their nominating teachers by Wednesday 14 March 2012).

We will notify you Monday 23 April should your child be chosen to participate. If chosen, you will receive a packet at the orientation which will contain more detailed instructions regarding the camp. If you have any questions about the SATS Camp that this letter or your child's teacher cannot answer, please do not hesitate to email me at bshop@bio.fsu.edu or call 644-1113. Hopefully, we will be meeting you and your child soon!

Sincerely yours,

Barbara M. Shoplock
Director, Saturday at the Sea Programs