Dear Science Teacher:

This summer Florida State University will again be sponsoring the Saturday-at-the-Sea Summer Day Camp (SATS Camp), a program that introduces late middle school & early high school students to experimental marine ecology. The program is funded by the Office of Science Teaching Activities at Florida State University. This year we will be hosting 3 free-of-charge **week-long day camps on June 27-July 1, July 11-15, and July 25-29**. Each session will include 12 students and 2 teacher participants.

Camp participants will spend a week at the FSU Coastal & Marine lab. They will be forming research teams & investigating ecological questions, as well as learning more about the local habitats and how they fit in. Students will be collecting & analyzing data, discussing & interpreting their results, and presenting their findings to their peers. In short, they will become marine scientists for the week! Never fear, though, SATS Camp will not be all work and no play! Students will be snorkeling on Turkey Point shoal, doing animal behavior investigations, making trips to salt marshes, oyster bars and sandy beaches, as well as going on a night boat ride to the local seagrass meadows!

The groups will meet each morning at the FSU campus in Tallahassee, and travel to and from the Florida State Marine Lab in FSU buses. Camps will have one overnight stay at the marine lab to do evening field work. For the overnight stay, dinner and breakfast will be provided. Students will need to bring their own bag lunches each day.

*There is no charge to participants for the camps*, allowing any student who expresses a desire to learn more about the marine environment a chance to participate.*

**Nomination Information**

As a science teacher, you play a very important role in this program. Please nominate up to five of your students who are currently enrolled in either the 7th, 8th, or 9th grade. **We are not necessarily looking for your best & brightest students, but instead, those who, with a little of the right kind of encouragement will develop an enthusiasm for science.** We are looking for a diverse group of students who are inquisitive & enthusiastic about the opportunity to participate in this camp. You are in the best position to judge this, and we appreciate your help!!!

Enclosed are five student nomination forms (blue forms) for you to fill out. The green forms are to be completed by the student nominee and their parents/guardians. Student applications (green forms) are due back to you by Wednesday, March 30. Nominees are asked to write a brief essay explaining why they would like to come to the camp. Final selection will be based upon your nomination and the student's essay.

*** For a nomination to be considered, the entire application (blue and green forms) must be returned by you, postmarked by **Friday April 08, 2011** (use enclosed envelope or mailing address below). ***

If you have any questions, please contact me at bshop@bio.fsu.edu or 644-1113. Thank you very much for your help!

Sincerely yours,

Barbara M. Shoplock  
Director, Saturday-at-the-Sea Programs