

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Stewards Of The Reef Program Targets High School Students To Help Protect Marine Life

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ST. THOMAS -- The Virgin Islands Department of Education, in partnership with the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, the University of the Virgin Islands, the Nature Conservancy, Red Hook Dive Center, and St. Croix Ultimate Bluewater Adventures (SCUBA) announced on Wednesday the "Creating Local Stewards of the Reef: Through Targeted Marine Experience and Education" program geared toward students in grades 10-12.

The program aims to increase awareness about the importance of protecting and managing local coral reefs and related ecosystems, according to D.O.E.

Students with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 and are established residents of the Virgin Islands are encouraged to apply. Participants will receive training to become PADI-certified scuba divers, receive training on coral reefs and their environments, and complete public awareness and fieldwork assignments. The program also seeks to establish strategic alliances with community-based organizations and local agencies.

Interested applicants in both districts should attend interest meetings prior to submitting an application. An interest meeting is scheduled in the St. Thomas-St. John District on December 2 and in the St. Croix District on December 5. Both meetings will begin at 4 p.m. in the district's Curriculum Centers. Interested participants are asked to RSVP by November 30 at calling (340) 774-0100 ext. 8027.

Application packets are available at www.vide.vi, and should be completed in its entirety and submitted no later than 5 p.m. (EST) on December 10, 2016. The packet includes an application, essay, waivers, proof of insurance, a copy of the latest academic report card and a head shot photo.

Application packets should be addressed as follows:

St. Thomas-St. John District

State STEM Director Office of the State STEM Director VIDE Main Complex- 1834
Kongens Gade St. Thomas, VI 00802

St. Croix District

State STEM Director State Office of Curriculum and Instruction VIDE Main Complex-
2133 Hospital Street Christiansted, VI 00820

Students who have been selected to participate in the program will be contacted via email.