

Join the Coastal Environmental Educators Network (CEEN) in celebrating Earth Day through a scavenger hunt exploring the Outer Banks!

Participants will have from April 17th-25th to complete a scavenger hunt that will take them all around our area to see why our natural environment is so special. Some activities can even be completed from home!

With so many options, do them all or try a few! Submit your completed activity responses to [earthfairobxplorations@gmail.com](mailto:earthfairobxplorations@gmail.com) by April 26 and be entered to win a prize!

**Earth Fair OBXplorations - ongoing and on site activities**

**Coastal Studies Institute** [www.coastalstudiesinstitute.org](http://www.coastalstudiesinstitute.org)

Visit CSI (ECU Outer Banks Campus, 850 NC-345, Wanchese, NC 27981)  
Did you know the Outer Banks lies along the second largest estuary in the United States? The Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine System has both environmental and economic importance to our area. It provides food, shelter, filtration, and protection for the organisms (and humans) that live in and around it, and also provides jobs for the fishing and seafood industries of North Carolina.

Watch ‘[What is an Estuary](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SUxEiMVL_AQ)’, the first video in our new series Outer Banks Ecosystems, then come explore our grounds! How many different habitats mentioned in the video can you identify on or near our campus?

**Jennette’s Pier** [www.ncaquariums.com/jennettes-pier](http://www.ncaquariums.com/jennettes-pier)

Wildlife at the Pier (7223 S Virginia Dare Trail, Nags Head, NC 27959)

Jennette’s Pier is home to a lot of different types of wildlife. These animals can be caught with a fishing rod, seen in the water, flying overhead, or hanging out on the pier! Some of our most frequent guests are birds, who spend time walking on the pier looking for some leftovers from the fishermen. One of the birds that we see on the pier, in the ocean, and in the sky is the pelican. Take a walk out on the pier during business hours, 7 am - 9 pm, and see what animals you can see. Take a photo with our pelican statue and give it a pet for good luck! (Walk-on fee is $2/person)

**Jockey’s Ridge State Park** [https://www.ncparks.gov/jockeys-ridge-state-park](https://www.ncparks.gov/jockeys-ridge-state-park/home)

Visit Jockey’s Ridge State Park (300 West Carolista Drive Nags Head, NC 27959)

The tallest living sand dune on the Atlantic coast is a premier location for kites, sightseeing and sunsets, with a view arcing from the ocean to Roanoke Sound. A visitor center with museum and 360-foot boardwalk with exhibits explain the dune’s ecology and are a gradual entry to the massive dune field. Hang gliding lessons are available through a vendor in the park. Experienced hang gliders must have a current USHPA membership and get a flying permit at the visitor center. Shoes and sun protection are recommended. By calling ahead 24-hours in advance, visitors with mobility restrictions can schedule a ride in our all-terrain-vehicle to the top of the dunes. The soundside access of the park is a different experience offering sunbathing, wading, paddling, and a one-mile nature trail that opens onto wetlands, grassy dunes and maritime thickets.

Numerous educational programs will be provided throughout the week. Please visit the [website](https://www.ncparks.gov/jockeys-ridge-state-park) for details. Pre-registration may be required for specific programs. Park hours: 8:00am-8:00pm, Soundside Access hours: 8:00am-5:00pm

**Monitor National Marine Sanctuary** <https://monitor.noaa.gov>

Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, Visit Cape Hatteras

It was New Year’s Eve 1862, when the USS *Monitor*, a Civil War ironclad, sank off the coast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. Caught in a violent storm, the ship struggled for hours until finally, the sea claimed it and 16 men. In 1973, John G. Newton with Duke University Marine Lab and a team of scientists discovered the USS *Monitor* in 240 feet of water, 16 miles off Cape Hatteras. To protect the ship and its history, the USS *Monitor* became our nation’s first national marine sanctuary on January 30, 1975.

Today, *Monitor* is one of 14 national marine sanctuaries and two marine national monuments. This system is a network of underwater parks encompassing more than 620,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters. Since 1972, we have worked to protect special places in America's waters, from the site of the *Monitor* shipwreck to a vast expanse of ocean surrounding remote coral reefs and tiny atolls.

As you approach Cape Hatteras, watch for the historical marker that tells *Monitor*’s story.

Summarize what the sign says. Visit the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and stand on the beach to imagine what the night was like for the Monitor’s crew. Write a story as if you were a sailor on the ship that night.

Visit the [Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum](https://graveyardoftheatlantic.com/) to explore exhibits about the Monitor.

Describe your favorite artifact in the museum and tell why.

**North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island** [www.ncaquariums.com/roanoke-island](http://www.ncaquariums.com/roanoke-island)

Visit the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island (374 Airport Road Manteo, NC 27954)

Visit the NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island during business hours, 9 am to 4 pm. Check in there to access an Earth Day themed scavenger hunt to complete that will take you through various exhibits in the Aquarium! Participants will need to pay admission to access this free activity, that will be available through a link or a paper copy at the facility.

**N.C. Coastal Federation** [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org)

Visit the N.C. Coastal Federation (637 Harbor Road, Wanchese, NC 27981)

Estuaries are places where rivers meet the sea. Coastal North Carolina has approximately 12,000 miles of estuarine shoreline! Walk along the dock at the federation’s Wanchese office to visit the estuary and see how we work with others to create living shorelines that protect the plants and animals that live there while reducing erosion. There are several different examples of ways the shoreline is brought to life through restoration and protection - which ones do you see? If you’re enjoying the view from the dock and look south, you’ll see an iconic structure that helps with navigation of the Outer Banks - what is this?

Did you know...you can also participate in a global scavenger hunt - Geocaching! Simply download the app ("Geocaching" on both the App Store and Google Play Store) to find many geocaches hidden in your area. There are over 20 geocaches hidden just on Roanoke Island and you might even find one on the federation's dock!

**Outer Banks Center for Dolphin Research** <https://obxdolphins.org/>

Dolphins of the Outer Banks:

Visit Jennette’s Pier (7223 S Virginia Dare Trail, Nags Head, NC 27959)

Bottlenose dolphins visit the Outer Banks all year long. You can spot them in the ocean and in the sound by looking for their dorsal fin to pop up when they come up to breathe. A dolphin’s dorsal fin is distinct to them, like a fingerprint. Scientists use photos of dorsal fins to keep track of certain dolphins throughout the year. The Outer Banks Center for Dolphin Research takes photos and records them, and uses them to learn more about the dolphins and how we can help protect them. There are many dolphins that are seen here every year, including one that was named Moe. Moe was spotted here, as well as down in Beaufort, NC and was recorded for over 20 years! He lived a long life and stranded a few years ago. His skeleton is hanging up at Jennette’s Pier. Stop by Jennette’s Pier between 7 am and 9 pm. See if you can find him and learn more about him, and get your picture with him!

**Earth Fair OBXplorations - Specific days and times only**

**Hatteras Island Ocean Center** [www.hioceancenter.org/](http://www.hioceancenter.org/)

Tie dying for Earth Day and Earth Weekend, April 22-24, various times

Come on down to Hatteras and visit an interactive indoor and outdoor nature center. Offering a special tie dying activity to celebrate Earth Day. Registration is required, please sign-up via text messaging to (252) 564-9575, first come, first served. Group sizes will be limited to 10-12.

Days/Hours will be April 22-23-24, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 10:30am, 2:00pm, and possibly 4:00pm if needed. Tie dyers will each need to bring:

A clean, 100% cotton T-shirt, new or old, white or any pale color, laundered with detergent only. Blends do work but results are best with 100% cotton. A $5.00 donation to the Ocean Center is requested (which will cover the cost of supplies).

**National Park Service** [www.nps.gov/caha](http://www.nps.gov/caha)

Beach Cleanup at Coquina Beach

Saturday, April 17, 7:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (Volunteers can join at any time!)

Looking for a fun way to support your OBX national parks and enjoy some time outside? Look no further! Come join your Cape Hatteras National Seashore park staff and the North Carolina Beach Buggy Association (NCBBA) for a beach cleanup on Bodie Island on Saturday, April 17! This is a drop-in volunteer effort, and volunteers should meet park staff at the bathhouse. Volunteers under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Make sure to wear cleanup appropriate clothing like gloves, close-toed shoes and hats. Don’t forget your water, snacks and sunscreen! NCBBA members will be stationed at off-road vehicle ramps where volunteers can obtain trash bags for collecting litter. Volunteers are asked to leave their trash bags at ramp entrances for collection when leaving the beach. Maeve Coughlin: maeve\_coughlin@partner.nps.gov (Groups of volunteers are encouraged to reach out in advance) For more information [click here](https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/event-details.htm?id=B5A5F592-A1B8-798E-D753CEA5BAB905F0).

Location: Coquina Beach Access off of Highway 12 in South Nags Head, NC; across the highway from the Bodie Island Lighthouse.

**Outer Banks Arboretum**

<https://dare.ces.ncsu.edu/the-outer-banks-arboretum-teaching-garden/>

Celebrate Earth Day and learn more about Azaleas with a Talk & Tour on April 22!

Join the Dare Master Gardeners at the Outer Banks Arboretum & Teaching Garden as we celebrate Earth Day.

The Master Gardeners will hold an Azalea Talk & Arboretum Tour starting near 300 Mustian Street in Kill Devil Hills. There will be two 45 minute programs at 10:00 & 11:00 am. Programs are free and no registration is required. The programs will take place, drizzle or shine. Read more [here.](https://dare.ces.ncsu.edu/2021/03/earth-day-at-the-outer-banks-arboretum/)

**Outer Banks Arboretum**

Ask a Master Gardener Returns In-Person

Ask a Master Gardener in-person services will resume in April! Bring your garden questions, samples, and photos, or stop by for a soil sample kit. A Master Gardener will be available at the Outer Banks Arboretum & Teaching Garden, starting April 14, Wednesdays 9 to 11 am. Weather permitting. At the N.C. Cooperative Extension office in Manteo, Starting April 19, Mondays 9 to 11 am.

**Earth Fair OBXplorations - at home options**

**Coastal Studies Institute** [www.coastalstudiesinstitute.org](http://www.coastalstudiesinstitute.org)

At home activity, ongoing:

The Coastal Studies Institute, in conjunction with Jennette’s Pier, has partnered with the National Renewable Energy Lab to host the final stage of the U.S. Department of Energy’s Waves to Water Prize! Through the various phases of the competition, innovators have designed and created small desalination machines powered by ocean waves. The remaining teams will test their devices at Jennette’s Pier in April 2022! In the meantime, there’s much work to be done here. CSI and Jennette’s Pier will be deploying test devices twice this year and will continue to monitor conditions at the pier. The data we collect will help the competitors better build their final submissions.

Do you know how waves work? Build your own wave machine with the help of our [Kitchen Science video](https://youtu.be/rrD1HhMciuU) and take a video or picture of it at work!

**Monitor National Marine Sanctuary** <https://monitor.noaa.gov>

Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, at home activities:

It was New Year’s Eve 1862, when the USS *Monitor*, a Civil War ironclad, sank off the coast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. Caught in a violent storm, the ship struggled for hours until finally, the sea claimed it and 16 men. In 1973, John G. Newton with Duke University Marine Lab and a team of scientists discovered the USS *Monitor* in 240 feet of water, 16 miles off Cape Hatteras. To protect the ship and its history, the USS Monitor became our nation’s first national marine sanctuary on January 30, 1975.

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Activity 1: Download [Be an Ocean Guardian](https://nmssanctuaries.blob.core.windows.net/sanctuaries-prod/media/archive/education/pdfs/ogab.pdf), a coloring and activity book to learn how to protect and conserve our ocean. Take the Ocean Guardian Pledge to help the ocean and all the creatures that live in it and around its shores. Then become a member of the [Ocean Guardian Kids Club](https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education/kids_club/) and get your membership card.

Activity 2: To learn about Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, watch an [18-minute video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EX6H3Tp-2yE) (YouTube) and make an [origami model](https://nmsmonitor.blob.core.windows.net/monitor-prod/media/docs/uss-monitor-origami.pdf) of the USS Monitor. Then test your Monitor knowledge with a [crossword puzzle](https://nmssanctuaries.blob.core.windows.net/sanctuaries-prod/media/archive/missions/2006monitor/pdfs/monitor_crossword.pdf).

Email a picture of any of the *Monitor* activities you completed to [Shannon.Ricles@noaa.gov](mailto:Shannon.Ricles@noaa.gov) and receive a free USS *Monitor* paper model to make.

**N.C. Coastal Federation** [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org)

At home activity, ongoing:

There are many ways you can help keep our waterways clean and healthy. Explore the [Distance Learning Lab](https://www.nccoast.org/distance-learning-lab/) website to learn how! Through a series of videos, activity sheets and crafts you can do at home you’ll learn more about beachcombing, marine science, and coastal wildlife! Then you’ll be equipped to help reduce pollution and keep our coast clean and pristine. Complete at least one of the activities in [Estuary Escapades](https://www.nccoast.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Estuary-Escapades.pdf) and take a picture of your answers.

**Outer Banks Arboretum**

<https://dare.ces.ncsu.edu/the-outer-banks-arboretum-teaching-garden/>

Library Garden Series﻿

April 21: Drought Tolerant Plants, 11 am - 12 pm

The Dare County Extension Master Gardener Speakers Bureau, in partnership with the Dare County Library, is offering their popular Library Garden Series as Virtual Zoom Presentations. Programs are free, but registration is required. For more information and registration click [HERE](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001wanfKdO_r2ow2EJIGbTu2uNpcbPSjovmkV2NLEYo4PExLKMFeijb6Q8Q1S6ob2G1HZxu3djRfyJVk7MaLLJu3Ay8dxBeEvo8Fr0K9A306CvAvYDTCwGh76g7tkF4MSKpsuihTl8pP-VIk99rfFXToFLuB1DlVfezSM7wUx51QXgmNTqcsRsjkMWg7wzgY9tYNXR_XL3TrOQ=&c=LEJsk40mW6bYo2Y01A5lFoHDJbj0n-57mW6n-jWobk3Pz3JqKbacng==&ch=1lGpzRK0TX4XD8mfLdT8m1JmHVC0BdPagpV6WRjLXoPmuX02DqIONw==&jrc=1).

**Outer Banks Forever/National Park Service** [www.nps.gov/caha/](http://www.nps.gov/caha/)

Are you missing your national parks right now? Wishing you could add a few more stamps to your [Passport for Your National Parks®](https://shop.americasnationalparks.org/store/category/30/278/Passport-Books/)? You’re in luck – to celebrate National Park Week our friends at [America’s National Parks®](https://americasnationalparks.org/) have just released free downloadable cancellations for each of your OBX national parks to go with fun virtual park activities that can be enjoyed at home! These special edition virtual cancellations are only available on our website – exclusive just for you.

Here’s how it works: Once you’ve completed the activities below, click the “Download” button to view a saveable PDF or click the cancellation image for a digital PNG file. After that, you can…**Paste It in Your Passport!** If you’d like to save your virtual cancellation in your regular [Passport To Your National Parks®](https://shop.americasnationalparks.org/store/category/30/278/Passport-Books/), print the PDF file at 150×150 dpi to get the right cancellation size. Don’t forget to print in color to match the Passport regions! **Collect and Share Online!** We recommend saving your virtual cancellations in an online album on Facebook, Google Photos, or wherever you keep your digital memories. This is the easiest way to share with your friends to help them extend the experience!

Link to activities: <https://obxforever.org/obx-virtual-passport-cancellations/>