



Information Pack #4

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Dear Members of the Water is Life Conference,

This was not the Information Pack 4 that was originally planned. The COVID-19 pandemic is a world disrupting event that has changed lives. We grieve with those of you who have suffered because of this illness. We are deeply sad for those who have lost lives, loved ones, jobs and security during these difficult times. We also mourn the loss of your fellowship during Water is Life 2020. We had wonderful events planned and looked forward to learning so much from each of you. You are deeply missed here in Florida.

The good news is that there is still much to celebrate. Our speakers and partners have reached out with creative ways to connect with us all. Some schools have been able to continue to work on their research reports. The reports are welcome at **any time** - if you can finish it, we want to publish your work and share your information with our Water is Life community. Our international panel of judges are looking forward to providing feedback on your hard work. Keep checking back to our website, www.waterislife2020.us, as there will be continuous updates.

We celebrate you, your research, your commitment to global connectiveness, your sense of adventure and your dedication to the water on our planet. You are the leaders of tomorrow. We applaud your willingness to explore ways to connect with other young people who are ready to learn from the past and prepare for the future. Well done. Don't stop. We need you now more than ever.

Ann Marie Shields

Jan Pullen

Jennifer Hambrick

Conference Fees Refund

ALL conference fees will be refunded and the wire transfer fees will be paid by Saint Stephen's. Early arrival funds will also be returned. Florida is currently under a “stay at home” order. As soon as we are able to interact with the bank for ordinary business, we will return the funds.

An email will be sent when the funds are in transit so that your school's Finance Office will know to look for the wire transfer or check, as is appropriate to your school.

Please be sure to send an email with the required information so that we can process the wire transfers.

Directions for refund of conference fees

Water is Life 2020 conference, June 22-26, 2020

Please provide the following information in an email to waterislife2020@saintstephens.org so that conference fees can be returned to the sending school.

It will be easiest to highlight and copy the categories of information needed and then paste the categories and associated information in an email.

School Name

School Address

Receiving Bank Name

Receiving Bank Address

Account Number

Account Name

ABA Number

SWIFT code

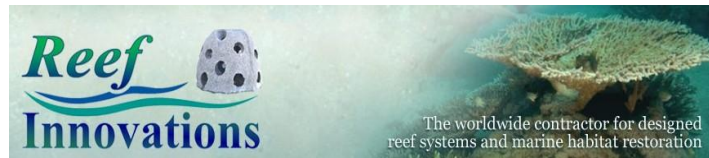
IBAN code

IF a correspondent bank will be used as part of the funds transfer, please provide the same information for that bank as well.

Research Report Submission

ALL teams are welcome to submit their completed research report at any time in the future. Judges are interested in supporting your hard work with their comments and ideas. Send a digital copy of your report to waterislife2020@saintstephens.org. It will then be sent to 3 members of our international judging panel. Their comments will be collected and returned to your school. Your report will be posted on the Water is Life 2020 AND the Water is Life Association websites to add to the collected body of knowledge produced by all student teams from all Water is Life conferences.

When and if you are able to submit your research report you are welcome to submit in whatever is the research reporting format at your school. The very formal reporting guidelines are relaxed to support your project completion.



Water is Life Reef Ball Project

The Original Plan

Reef Innovations, located in Sarasota, Florida, planned to welcome the Water is Life 2020 worldwide conference participants for our ice-breaking activity on June 22, 2020. At that time conference participants would assemble the forms, mix and pour the concrete, and build the Reef Balls that would become an artificial reef off of the coast of Florida. In doing so they would get to meet each other as part of a working team whose product would improve the coastal habitat.

The legacy of this ice-breaking and team-building activity was to be marked by a special Water is Life 2020 brass plaque. More importantly, each school was invited to bring an item to embed in the concrete, making it a permanent part of the artificial reef. By meeting, working together and dedicating their efforts to the construction of 40 reef balls, the Water is Life 2020 conference participants and their schools would leave a lasting and meaningful legacy of habitat restoration.

The NEW Plan

Reef Innovations is committed to honoring the Water is Life 2020 conference participants, their research and their common goals of leadership and stewardship in the area of water. Reef Balls will still be constructed by local students and will still carry the brass plaque commemorating Water is Life 2020.

Reef Innovations and Saint Stephen's Episcopal School invite the schools participating in Water is Life 2020 to send a small item that can be embedded in the concrete as part of dedicated Reef Balls. These items must be made of a sustainable materials and cannot have any plastic parts. Items can be made of glass, ceramics, stone, or metal. The item must be the size of the palm of a human hand or smaller. In this way, each Water is Life 2020 participating school will physically become part of a forever reef that will aid in improving the health of the ocean and its inhabitants.

Items representing each school are requested to be sent by **November 1, 2020**, to the following address:

Ms. Jennifer Hambrick
Saint Stephen's Episcopal School
315 41st Street West
Bradenton, Florida 34209
USA

THE VIEW

Each year Saint Stephen's Episcopal School publishes an **outstanding** book of student work. It is best described by this year's student editor, Maia Erquiaga:

"The View is a multilingual magazine published annually by Saint Stephen's Episcopal School. The first of its kind in the nation, *The View* features bilingual articles that center around a universal theme each year. Students employ their understanding of Latin, Spanish, Mandarin, and other languages to offer unique perspectives on the theme and the topics it includes. While most authors are upper school students at Saint Stephen's, *The View's* aim to incorporate as many languages and perspectives as possible often allows it to publish the work of international writers. The magazine has been lauded by many, including Columbia University, for its innovative approach to language and global connection."



This year's theme:

"Inspired by... the 2020 "Water is Life" international conference, we at *The View* have explored how water has shaped our cultures over time."

Read YOUR copy of The View at :

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ufQC9a1Mqsh7BS7A04Xv9gmdWnNXrDQ9/view?usp=sharing>

www.waterislife2020.us

Our conference website, www.waterislife2020.us, is undergoing a dramatic change to become an "unconference" website.

The usual collection of important forms is collated on the last page for quick and easy access. The biggest changes are coming to the Schools page and the Program page.

Water is Life teams are starting to submit their [research reports](#) which are linked to each school. Read their submissions to learn from their research. Reach out to those schools to comment and support each team's hard work.

The Program page has links to our speakers and our field destinations. While you won't have the in-person advantage of experiencing these conference events, you can still learn from them, virtually. Speakers have included links to important works. Our field destinations also have links from which you can, virtually, explore the watery world of Florida.

If you have other suggestions for inclusion on the website please reach out to waterislife2020@saintstephens.org We can keep the conference nature of our gathering going by communicating with each other, sharing ideas and discussing important research.