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Reef Contest for Kids

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HONOLULU, Hawaii (KHNL) - The ocean is very important to the people of Hawaii, and students from across the country are invited to show off their knowledge about marine conservation. The Hawaii Ocean Guardian's Kid's Club is part of the 2008 International Year of the Reef observance in Hawaii.

The ocean reef-themed contest is presented by Outrigger Hotels and Resorts in collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (NMS), and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.



"We're excited to be a part of this contest, partly because it's another new program that's emerged from our ongoing educational partnership with NOAA, but mostly because Outrigger is a strong proponent of preserving our sensitive island environments through knowledge and awareness," said Kimberly Agas, Vice President of operations for Outrigger's Beachfront properties. "One of the main missions of the national sanctuary system is to educate the public about the 14 special underwater areas managed by NOAA. Through the kid's club and contest we can reach thousands of kids across the country with the message that they can be stewards of the ocean no matter where they live."



The contest is free and open to all students in grades K through 8 in the United States. They are encouraged to express their insights and observations about the ocean and sensitive coral reef ecosystems through the creation of short stories, poetry or visual artwork, including photography. It must be an original work done by the student who registered.



The children submitting the best entries in each division are eligible to win one of several prizes including a two-night stay at the Outrigger Reef on the Beach in Waikiki, Hawaii, a Flik Flak Swatch Watch, and an Outrigger Island Explorer Backpack. Participants will receive a free Ocean Guardian's Kid's Club membership kit from NOAA, while supplies last.

August 29, 2008 is the deadline to submit entries. For more information on the contests guidelines and rules, visit

http://www.nmsfocean.org/og_contest.asp.



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