The USC Philip K. Wrigley Marine Science Center on Catalina Island:

Visitor Information and Forms

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THE USC WRIGLEY INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

The Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies (WIES) is USC’s hub for environmental research, education and outreach. Our main offices are in Los Angeles on the USC University Park Campus, and we proudly oversee the research laboratories and conference facilities at the Philip K. Wrigley Marine Science Center (WMSC) on Catalina Island, at Big Fisherman Cove near the community of Two Harbors.

The mission of WIES is to encourage responsible and creative decisions in society by providing an objective source of marine and environmental science and fostering an understanding of the natural world among people of all ages.

Wrigley Institute-affiliated faculty conduct research in all aspects of the environment, such as the biological adaptations to climate change, interactions among humans and natural systems, and the analysis and development of environmental policy. WIES works with foundations and the public to enhance environmental awareness. More information can be found at: http://dornsife.usc.edu/wrigley/.
THE USC WRIGLEY MARINE SCIENCE CENTER
The USC WMSC is located in Big Fisherman Cove, near the town of Two Harbors on Catalina Island and about 20 miles from the port of Los Angeles, California. While easily reachable from the mainland, the marine field station is remote and beautiful, with easy access to open ocean and coastal ecosystems. We have a 5.5-acre campus with housing, a conference center, a dining hall, a common lounge, an administrative building, a laboratory...and an ocean!

The Environment
Catalina sits in a mild, subtropical maritime setting and has a Mediterranean climate. The marine systems between Los Angeles and Catalina range from urban/impacted sandy and rocky shorelines, to deep canyon-cut continental shelf systems, to spectacular blue water environments, to pristine rocky intertidal and subtidal kelp forests. Big Fisherman Cove was designated as a no-take Marine Protected Area by the state of CA in the 1980’s and is a refuge for many marine species. This is a perfect setting to examine diverse marine ecosystems with adjacent lands that include contrasting uses like commercial ports, substantial recreational activity, and marine protected areas. Catalina’s terrestrial landscape is also protected (through the Catalina Island Conservancy) and includes more than 400 native plants as well as non-native and invasive species. This landscape offers an opportunity to compare land-ocean interactions in heavily human impacted vs. less impacted settings.

WMSC Laboratories
The WMSC’s 21,000 sq. ft., 3-story laboratory includes teaching facilities, six shared-use research laboratories plus individual laboratories with bench space for visiting researchers; ultra clean flowing seawater, radioisotope analytical and molecular capabilities, a computer center, library, wired and wireless internet connectivity, and video-conferencing. Additionally, a research greenhouse is available for scientists to conduct plankton, aquaculture, biofuel, and terrestrial studies.

George and MaryLou Boone Center for Science and Environmental Leadership
The WMSC is home to the George and MaryLou Boone Center for Science and Environmental Leadership, a complex of six cottages and a multimedia conference center. The Boone Center is designed as a “Camp David for the environment” where scientists, policy makers, industry professionals and educators can meet to collaborate and focus on environmental solutions.

Research, Education and Dive groups
The WMSC is filled year-round with a variety of research, education and dive groups. This includes faculty from USC and other institutions, graduate students conducting independent research projects, graduate and undergraduate short courses, scientific research diving groups, and K-12 classes on day-trips and overnights. These visitors come from diverse regional, national and international institutes, with many returning year after year. This provides unique opportunities to interact and network with a global scientific community.
Lab reservations must be made in advance. For Education and Outreach groups, please contact WMSC Education Staff. For research groups, please email the WMSC lab manager at lauren.czarnecki@usc.edu.

**Undergraduate Laboratory Policies:**

To conduct research in a lab while unsupervised, all undergraduate students must complete a 6-hour campus safety course (or the equivalent at your home institution) and a 1-hour WMSC-specific safety talk.

To work in a lab while supervised by a graduate student or instructor/faculty, all undergraduates must complete a 3-hour safety course (or the equivalent at your home institution) and the above-mentioned 1-hour WMSC specific presentation. All supervisors must have completed the 6-hour training and the 1 hour WMSC-specific safety talk. **Closed toed shoes and lab coats (provided) are mandatory in the lab.**

Undergraduate students enrolled in academic courses need only complete the 1-hour WMSC-specific safety talk to participate in course-based laboratory work.

**Note:** Students over 18 are allowed in the lecture hall, computer room and library at any time without supervision.

**Laboratory Policies for Minors (Under 18 yr):**

Students under the age of 18 are not allowed to work unsupervised in the labs. If ANY students in a group are under 18, the group must have a supervisor (who has completed the 6-hour safety training) and an adult chaperone to watch over each “bay” being used in the lab. Chaperones are not required to complete any formal training, but are encouraged to complete the 1-hour WMSC safety course.

**Radiation Laboratory Policy:**

No one is permitted in the Radiation Lab unless they have completed the Radiation Safety Course and are named on a current Radiation Permit.

**USC Lab Safety Course Information:**

USC WRIGLEY MARINE SCIENCE CENTER
1 BIG FISHERMAN COVE
AVALON, CALIFORNIA 90704

1. Helipad
2. Hyperbaric Chamber
3. Dive Locker
4. Amphitheater
5. Volleyball Court
6. Administration Building
7. Private Residence
8. Lab Building (Lecture Hall & Library)
9. Touch Tanks
10. Waste Treatment Plant
11. Seawater System
12. Deer Valley Trail
13. Blue Cavern Nature Trail
14. Dining Patio
15. Dining Room
16. Residence Hall
   (Apt. 101-110; Dorm 201-219)
17. Peregrine Cottage (301)
18. Cortney Cottage (303)
19. Rose Hills Cottage (305)
20. Aoun Cottage (307)
21. Boone Center Houses
22. Boone House (343)
23. Plumleigh House (331)
24. Rusack House (325)
25. Gardner Grout House (317)
26. Rose Hills House (328)
27. Dewey House (336)
WMSC General information
http://dornsife.usc.edu/wrigley/wmsc

**Transportation to the WMSC:**

Most guests reach the WMSC via the USC vessel, the Miss Christi. The Miss Christi departs SCMI promptly at 7:30 am and departs WMSC at 3:30 pm on regular Monday-Thursday runs. On Fridays, the boat departs SCMI at 8:00 am and departs WMSC at 12:30 pm. The boat leaves on time, with or without all passengers listed on the vessel's manifest. Please plan on boarding 30 minutes before the scheduled departure. Boat schedules are subject to change. For updated schedules, please visit [http://dornsife.usc.edu/wrigley/transportationcalendar/](http://dornsife.usc.edu/wrigley/transportationcalendar/).

Passengers are allowed up to 2 personal bags each, no larger than 23”x23”x37” and weighing no more than 50 pounds. Any other gear or cargo needs to be mentioned at the time of reservation. We cannot guarantee transport of extra cargo on regular boat runs, so please coordinate in advance.

SCMI is located at 820 S. Seaside Ave in San Pedro. Free on-street parking is available, but please refrain from parking inside SCMI's gate; it is for assigned staff only. Space is limited, so please carpool. The Miss Christi is a white and cardinal painted vessel docked just behind SCMI and Port Police. In the event you get lost, there is typically SCMI staff around or you can call the boat phone at 213-700-4508.

**Additional Travel Information:**

- Travel time is roughly 90 minutes each way.
- Closed-toed shoes are mandatory for all passengers aboard USC vessels. Anyone wearing open-toed footwear, such as sandals, will not be permitted to board.
- Smoking and consumption of alcohol are prohibited aboard USC vessels.
- Children under the age of 12 MUST wear a life jacket while on board the boat. If a child is inside the cabin, they may remove their life jacket for comfort. Please check with your reservationist if a life jacket will be available on board. If not, the parent is responsible for providing one.

*If you cannot make the boat, PLEASE call or text the boat phone at 213-700-4508.*

**Motion sickness**

If you tend to get motion sickness, consider taking over-the-counter medications such as Bonine and Marezine, which can be purchased in any pharmacy (we do not suggest Dramamine as it makes some people very drowsy. Also, please be sure and take the medication at least an hour ahead of departure time); acupressure wrist patches; or ginger (begin taking it several days prior to the trip). We also recommend that you eat before traveling, but avoid acidic foods like citrus or coffee. Saltines and ginger ale are good snacks to bring for the boat trip.

**Upon arrival at the WMSC:**

All guests must participate in a 15 min. safety orientation. An additional 45 min. waterfront orientation is mandatory for groups that will be using the waterfront for snorkeling or kayaking. Overnight guests must also attend a 15 min. housing orientation. If you did not arrange for staff to meet you at the dock, please check in at the Administration Building.
Housing:

Students are generally housed two or three to a room. Our rooms are very comfortable! All rooms have windows, desks, lamps, and dressers. We will provide your linens, blankets, pillows and towels, but please bring a beach towel. We ask that visiting researchers please keep voices and noise levels low between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. to respect of other visitors.

Check-in time is 2 p.m. and checkout time is 9 a.m. During your stay, please do not remove your towels, linens, blankets or other furnishings. When you check out, please leave sheets and towels in the room. Our housekeeping crew will pick them up to launder.

If you have been in the water, please leave your diving gear, booties and other gear outside to dry. WMSC gear should be turned in at the waterfront after each use.

Dining:

Our dining hall is right next to our housing facility. Meal times are as follows:

- Breakfast - 7:30 - 8:00
- Lunch - 12:00 - 12:30
- Dinner - 6:00 - 6:30

Our chefs will do everything they can to accommodate all tastes. Prior to the start of the program, you will be asked if you have any allergies or special dietary restrictions or concerns (vegetarian, vegan, kosher, etc). The dining hall is open 24/7 so that you will have access to the soda and water fountain, coffee dispenser, tea, hot water, ice, fruits, cereals, and milk. There are also vending machines (soft drinks and candy) located in the lab building.

Drought conditions:

In September 2016, Catalina Island entered Stage 3 water rationing due to severe drought. This meant a 50% reduction in our baseline water use. As of March 7, 2017, we are back to Stage 1 (100% of baseline, but minor restrictions on how and when water can be used). Still, the WMSC recognizes that continued water conservation is crucial to prevent future water shortages. In line with our ongoing conservation efforts, we ask visitors to help by restricting laundry use, minimizing showers, and conserving everywhere they can. WMSC staff will provide updated information upon your arrival.

Wifi:

The WMSC campus has access to the USC Guest and Secure wireless networks.

Cell phone coverage:

The WMSC campus generally has good cell phone coverage, but some carriers work better than others.

Main Office:

The main office is open Mon-Fri, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. The office is located in the trailer across from the lab building. The phone number is (310) 510-0811. The main office handles payments, special requests, concerns, mail, copying/faxing.
**Gift Shop:**
The gift shop is located in the main office. Gifts, T-shirts, postcards, maps, etc. are available. The gift shop is open Monday-Friday, from 9 am to 4 pm. Please ask in the main office if you need something at another time.

**Lounge:**
The lounge is located just off the dining hall and is open 24 hours a day. We have satellite TV, DVD/VCR players, board games, ping pong and pool tables. Pre-college students are not allowed in these areas without supervision and only during program hours.

**Smoking:**
The university is committed to promoting a healthy, safe and comfortable environment for all students, faculty, staff and visitors. Smoking is prohibited in all indoor and outdoor facilities on University owned and leased property with no exception, including within vehicles parked on those properties. This includes all university owned and leased housing, dining, retail, teaching, research, and office space.

For purposes of this policy, smoking is defined as inhaling, exhaling, burning, carrying or possessing any lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, electronic cigarette, hookah or other lit product and including the use of any substance, including but not limited to tobacco, cloves or marijuana.

Refusal by faculty, staff or students to comply with this policy may result in appropriate disciplinary action. Visitors who refuse to comply will be asked to leave the facility.

**Laundry:**
Laundry facilities are only available to guests staying longer than one week. The laundry room is located to the left of the cafeteria door. Machines take quarters ($2.00 for the washers and $1.50 for the dryer). HE soap is available in a vending machine, and a change machine is located in the laundry room.

**Library and Computer Facilities:**
Our small library has basic reference books and a good collection of local guides to marine life. We have two computer labs furnished with both Macs and PCs, CD/DVD drives, printers and a scanner. All computers are connected to the Internet by a high-speed (T-1) cable. You'll definitely be in email contact with the world! If you have a laptop computer, you are of course more than welcome to bring it along. You will have access to USC’s wireless network from anywhere on the WMSC campus. Pre-college students only have access to computers with supervision.

**Recreation:**
In addition to indoor fun such as ping pong and pool, we suspect you’ll be very interested in some wonderful outdoor fun! We suggest snorkeling in our marine reserve or perhaps a relaxing early morning kayak through the kelp beds. And no, you don’t need to bring your own kayak...we have plenty for you to enjoy (both single and double kayaks. No experience necessary...just a quick training orientation)! Please see below for more information. Please note: pre-college students must be supervised in all of these areas and must always be with an instructor/staff member during snorkeling or kayaking.
Community:

The northwest end of Catalina Island, where the Wrigley Marine Science Center is located, is wonderfully wild. Two Harbors, a tiny town, is less than 2 miles (and a lovely walk) away along a dirt road. You'll find a small general store with a few essential items for sale, a shop for renting a mountain bike or diving gear, a restaurant and a snack bar. About 150-200 people live there; you'll meet some of the residents immediately because they work at the lab. In the summer, Two Harbors hops with visiting boaters, who moor in Isthmus Cove or nearby in Fourth of July and Cherry coves. Pre-college students are not allowed off campus without supervision, and may only leave campus as part of their program activities.

Vehicle Transportation

WMSC vehicles and drivers are available on a limited basis. Reservations must be made prior to arrival. In some cases, vehicle rental will require an additional charge for a staff driver.

Van, for up to 10 maximum passengers
Electric Vehicle, for up to 4 maximum passengers

Visiting groups that wish to rent a WMSC vehicle must hire a WMSC staff driver. Visiting researchers can rent and drive vehicles and will be required to complete paperwork and a checkout procedure.

The interior of Catalina Island is managed by the Catalina Island Conservancy, and transportation to the island interior might involve a nominal per person fee charged by the Conservancy.

Wildlife

Be aware that there are foxes, deer, ravens, bison, rattle snakes and other wildlife on Catalina Island! Please do not feed wildlife or leave any food or drinks outside unattended!

Responsibilities, Policies and Problems:

Each participant should review our visitor information posted at http://dornsife.usc.edu/wrigley/visitors/. All residents at the WMSC are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible adult manner. The Wrigley Institute-affiliated Program Leader reserves the right to dismiss any person for inappropriate behavior or whose actions are judged to pose a danger to him/herself or others. Underage drinking and substance abuse are illegal and will not be tolerated.

For questions on our Pet, Emotional Support, and Service Dog Policies, please talk to your reservationist. You can also view a copy of these policies on our website (dornsife.usc.edu/wrigley).

Required forms for all visitors (attached at the end of this visitor guide):

- WMSC Medical Form
- WMSC Waterfront Waiver
Packing Suggestions

Los Angeles is generally moderate-to-warm year-round. Summers are dry and warm (70°F’s in the evenings to over 100°F during some days). Seasonal transitions in temperature are relatively modest. Winters experience short periods of rain and temperatures typically don’t fall below 40°F. The island can be a lot cooler and windier than Los Angeles, especially in the evenings. The island is not completely paved like LA either – we have some paved roads but also many dirt roads. Monitor weather and sea conditions (http://www.ecatalina.com/weather.html) to better plan your packing.

Some items to remember to bring are:
- Bathing suit (1-2)
- Beach towel (bath towels are provided, but must stay in your room)
- Shoes that can get wet that are not flip flops (although you can also borrow booties from the WMSC)
- Close-toed shoes (you must wear them on the Miss Christi boat and in the lab activities)
- Hiking shoes
- Windproof jacket
- Fleece or other warm jacket
- Hats – one with a brim and one for warmth
- Daypack for hiking
- Water bottle
- All your toiletries
- Sun block
- Snorkel gear and wetsuit (available at WMSC, unless you prefer to use your own; label with your name, if you can)
- Medications – there are no pharmacies near the WMSC! Please be sure to bring enough of your medications to last for your entire stay; also bring permission slips for any medication that needs to be given to a minor.
- Motion sickness medication

You can bring snacks to the island, but all food should be sealed in Ziploc bags because Catalina ants love snacks! The ravens and foxes are also quite clever, so please don’t leave snacks outside and unattended (even if they’re in your bag – ravens have learned to unzip bags).

Drone Policy (see USC Policy on UAS flights at fsep.usc.edu/filming)

As the Wrigley Institute’s Marine Science lab is a multiuser/multi university facility, a USC drone flight application is required for any drone flight on USC property or associated with USC in any way.

The USC Drone Flight Application can be found at: wrigley.usc.edu/drone and should be submitted via email to kspaffor@usc.edu at least 30 days prior to first planned flight.
WMSC – Emergency Information

The volunteer Wrigley Marine Science Center Emergency Response Team has been trained to help everyone at the facility to respond to any emergency. Each team member will be equipped with a brightly colored emergency vest during emergency situations.

Emergency supplies
The Team has four kits of emergency supplies. Each kit consists of two bags and includes flashlights, first aid supplies, water, hardhats, battery-operated radios, and useful emergency tools. The emergency kits are located:
- Lab Building – Room 204 (Teaching Lab)
- Administration Building – Conference Room (DOC)
- Housing/Cafeteria – Apt. 110 (Chamber Crew Apt.)
- Chamber Hanger – West most Storage Cage

The Team has also been provided with two satellite phones.

WRIGLEY MARINE SCIENCE CENTER EVACUATION ASSEMBLY AREA
In the event of an evacuation, the building team will guide all occupants to:
- Parking Lot above Admin Building (#6 in map) for Fire and Earthquake
- Café Patio for Tsunami (#14 in map)
Both locations are circled on the map below.
BASIC EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

• In the event of any emergency, for assistance call 911 (9-911 on University Lines).
• Then contact Hyperbaric Chamber Crew for on-site assistance at 310-510-1053. Hyperbaric Chamber staff and volunteers are all trained in first aid. The Chamber serves as a medical emergency point for the west end of Catalina Island.
• For after-hours urgent matters, dial 213-219-0367.
• In the event of a fire, sound the alarm by pulling the nearest pull station, leave the building immediately, call for help 911 (or 9-911), and meet at assembly area Parking Lot above Administration Building.
• During an earthquake, take shelter under a sturdy table, or near an interior wall away from windows and heavy objects. No need to go to a doorway. Wait for the shaking to stop and follow directions of Emergency Team.
• In the event of a campus shooting warning, take shelter indoors, stay away from windows, and remain inside until all clear by law enforcement officials.

• Other contact information:
  - Facilities: 310-729-0377 (Randy Phelps) or 970-324-4813 (Steve McElroy)
  - Lab: 301-213-8879 (John Heidelberg)
Recreational Activities at the WMSC

Hiking:

Hiking trails on the island are rocky, uneven, and frequently steep. We recommend that you wear sturdy walking shoes. Many of Catalina’s plants have spines or seeds that can scratch your legs, so long pants are best. We also recommend that you wear a hat and sunscreen for sun protection and that you bring a full water bottle with you on your hike. Be aware of your surroundings – although they are often elusive, we have a diverse array of wildlife on the island including rattlesnakes and bison (buffalo). Pre-college students must hike under supervision and/or during staff-led program activities. Check out Deer Valley Trail, which starts close to campus and was created by USC Environmental Studies students during the summer of 2013. The Blue Cavern Nature Trail can also be easily accessed from campus (see map on page 6).

Kayaking:

We have kayaks, paddles, and personal flotation devices (PFDs) for you to use while you kayak (PFDs are required). Prepare to get wet. You must wear shoes with heel straps and gripping soles. Old tennis shoes, Keen or Chaco sandals are good choices. The WMSC also has water shoes that you can borrow. Flip-flop style shoes without a heel strap are not allowed. We recommend that you also wear a hat and sunscreen for sun protection. There is a place at the waterfront to store your belongings while you kayak.
**Snorkeling:**

We have wetsuits, masks, fins, and snorkels for you to use. If you wear glasses, you’ll need to wear contact lenses or bring a prescription mask (unless your eyesight is good enough to go without glasses). Bring a beach towel. There is a changing room and showers at the waterfront and a place to store your belongings while you snorkel.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY. PLEASE SEE THE FOLLOWING PAGES ABOUT KAYAKING AND SNORKELING PROCEDURES.**

**Other:**

Volleyballs and a volleyball court, soccer balls, badminton sets, and frisbees are also available at the main office.
USC WMSC – Kayaking Guidelines

Guided tours require at least two WMSC Education Staff on kayaks and a motor chase boat to follow the group. Recreational kayaking groups will require WMSC staff assistance for gear check-outs and returns.

Check Weather and Map: We suggest kayaking in the morning, as winds often come up in the afternoon. Check the “Kayaking boundaries map” area for USC and keep close to the shore away from high traffic areas. Always kayak with a buddy! Please let kayakers know that their seats will get wet, and they will have to walk into the water (knee-high) to get on their kayak.

Personal Flotation Device (PFD): You must wear the PFD while kayaking at USC. Vests are in the shed and should fit snug (universal/plus/child). Please rinse, zip and return to the shed to dry. Hang vest by the bottom right strap, zipped. Please do not wear PFDs for swimming.

Paddles and Seats: Paddles are located near the kayaks. Seats are not required, but are available to help support your back and usually have two side straps and two back straps.

Moving Kayaks: Please use two people to move a kayak, or use the “wheels” to roll it to the waterfront. All kayaks are stacked by size (singles, tandems, XL tandems) and are locked. Pointy nose goes toward the ocean.

Stretch and Review Plan: Sign your kayak out and go over your plan. Each kayak is assigned a number - please indicate kayak numbers on the signout board. Watch your time if you are on the return boat to the mainland. Kayaks are stacked by size - please stack by size when you return them.
USC WMSC – Snorkeling Guidelines

Guided tours require at least two WMSC Education Staff in the water per eight people and a trained dock person to respond to emergencies.

Recreational snorkeling groups will require WMSC staff assistance for gear check-outs and returns. We have masks, snorkels, wet suits and fins for up to 35 people. Gear check-outs and returns must be arranged in advance. We also have boogie boards and noodles. **One adult member from the group must be a dock person in case of emergencies.** The dock person will receive a short training from WMSC waterfront or education staff. The primary role of the dock person in the event of an emergency is to use the red phone (immediate connection with emergency support, no dialing) and facilitate communication (note: can use white phone to dial 61053 or 1-310-510-1053) have on pier or dock a whistle, bullhorn, emergency vest, throw bag(s), AED, Dan O₂, and First Aid Kit (which has been opened and checked before taking to dock).

Please note that there is NO LIFEGUARD on duty. In case of emergency, USC Hyperbaric Chamber staff and volunteers are all trained in first aid. The Chamber serves as a medical emergency point for the west end of Catalina Island.

Snorkeling with WMSC gear is restricted to Big Fisherman Cove. Night snorkeling is allowed in the cove with prior approval. No one may snorkel at night until they have first snorkeled during daytime!

**Pre-assessments**

Please let WMSC staff know how many people in your group are NOT comfortable swimming in the ocean prior to snorkeling.
Important Reminders for Group Leaders

- We require a Liability waiver form and Medical Emergency Information Form, from each participant
- Close-toed shoes are mandatory for the Miss Christi and lab activities
- We need names of everyone in your group for the manifest
- The boat departure times are strict – the captain will not wait!
- Please remind everyone in your group to bring a water bottle and sunblock
- Confirm your agenda with your WMSC contact
- Please let us know if there are any special dietary restrictions or medical conditions in your group as soon as possible

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies (USC Main Campus)
3616 Trousdale Pkwy, AHF 401
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0371
(213) 740-6780
wies@usc.edu

Wrigley Marine Science Center (Catalina Island)
P.O. Box 5069
1 Big Fisherman Cove
Avalon, CA 90704
Phone: (310) 510-0811
Fax: (310) 510-1364

Dr. John Heidelberg, Wrigley Institute Interim Director
jheidelb@usc.edu, (213) 740-6780

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Sean Conner, Assistant Director of Operations – Wrigley Marine Science Center
sean.conner@usc.edu, (310) 510-4012

Linda Chilton, Education Program Coordinator (USC Sea Grant Program)
lchilton@usc.edu, (213) 740-1965

Lynn Whitley, Pre-College Education Director
lwhitley@usc.edu, (213) 740-1964

Diane Kim, Undergraduate Programs Director
dianekim@usc.edu, (213) 740-8776 (office) (213) 820-9191 (cell)

To reach a group in case of emergencies, please contact the education staff lead or the WMSC main office. Cell phones also work at Catalina.
USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies - Frequently Asked Questions

What is the mission of the USC Wrigley Institute?

The mission of the USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies is to encourage responsible and creative decisions in society by providing an objective source of marine and environmental science and fostering an understanding of the natural world among people of all ages.

Where is the Institute located?

The Institute is headquartered at the USC University Park campus, near downtown Los Angeles. The Institute also maintains the Wrigley Marine Science Center, a research facility on Santa Catalina Island, located near the town of Two Harbors.

What’s the difference between the USC Wrigley Institute and the USC Wrigley Marine Science Center?

The Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies (WIES) serves as an environmental hub for research, education and outreach at USC. The WIES Director’s Office and mainland staff are based on the USC campus and oversee the Institute’s major programs and research initiatives. These programs involve diverse faculty, staff, students and collaborators in Los Angeles, on Catalina Island, and across the southern California region.

One of our most unique and widely recognized assets is the Wrigley Marine Science Center (WMSC) on Catalina Island. This facility is managed by the Wrigley Institute, and staffed by full-time USC employees. The WMSC is a state-of-the-art marine station and a base for many of the Institute’s education and student research programs.

Who is affiliated with the USC Wrigley Institute?

Wrigley Institute affiliates include environmentally-focused faculty across USC’s departments and schools; researchers from closely aligned institutions such as Cal State Universities and the LA Natural History Museum; and professionals from organizations who share our mission and vision.
What does the Wrigley Institute study?

With a marine center on Catalina Island, it comes as no surprise that the Wrigley Institute has a strong emphasis on ocean and coastal research. This includes studies into fundamental environmental processes, monitoring of our local coastal waters, and solutions-oriented approaches to issues such as pollution, sea level rise and climate change.

The Institute also embraces a broader focus on environmental sustainability and awareness. This includes promoting science communication, engaging with decision-makers, and developing interdisciplinary relationships to forge creative new paths for environmental protection and understanding.

I want to do my research project at the Wrigley Marine Science Center. How do I set that up?

Senior researchers and graduate students can apply to conduct their independent research at the Wrigley Marine Science Center. For students, limited funding may be available to offset fees through WIES programs. For more information, click here.

What kinds of educational programs does the Institute offer?

The Wrigley Institute offers graduate, undergraduate and K-12 opportunities. These occur both at Catalina Island and on the mainland.

Graduate and undergraduate students can participate in research experiences, short-term internships, registered courses and class fieldtrips. For more information on these graduate and undergraduate programs, click here.

Education programs for K-12 students are available year-round. The majority of these programs involve individually designed day-trips for schools and groups. For information about our current K-12 opportunities and scheduling a trip, click here.

Can I hold a conference or meeting at the Wrigley Marine Science Center? How do I make that happen?

Sure! The WMSC has conference facilities and housing appropriate for groups with different sizes, goals and needs. This includes our Boone Center for Science and Environmental Leadership, a complex of six private cottages with a secluded Meeting House for discussion. For more information, click here.
What if I have a medical emergency when I'm on the island?

While it may seem like you're in a very remote spot while at the WMSC, you're actually in good shape when it comes to medical emergencies. Paramedic services are provided by Los Angeles County's Fire Department's Lifeguard Division, also known as Isthmus Baywatch. Housed in the nearby town of Two Harbors, Baywatch can respond to emergencies via land or sea in a very short time. They evaluate the situation and, if further treatment is required, transport the patient either to the hospital in Avalon or arrange for a medevac (emergency transport via helicopter) to a hospital on the mainland. The helicopter flight to the mainland is approximately 20 minutes.

How can I visit the Wrigley Marine Science Center as an individual?

Guided experiences and engagement opportunities are offered during our summer 'Saturdays at the Lab' series. We invite everyone in the area to come meet our researchers and learn about the Institute. The WMSC is also open to individual visitors year-round; these guests must sign in at the administrative office and then are welcome to explore the campus and take a self-guided tour.

How can I support the Institute?

We deeply value the support of individuals and corporations who share our mission and vision for environmental stewardship and sustainability. With your gift, you become part of our community through the 'Friends of the Wrigley Institute' (FOWI) association. FOWI members receive special courtesies including invitations to the Institute's Catalina Island and mainland events.

How do I stay in touch about Wrigley Institute announcements and updates?

Glad you asked! For subscription to our email list, email Katie Chvostal at chvostal@usc.edu. We also encourage you to connect with us on Facebook and Twitter.
RELEASE FROM LIABILITY
(University of Southern California)

As the parent/guardian, I, the undersigned, acknowledge and agree that in consideration for permission to participate in the Activities (defined below), I, my spouse, assignees, heirs, guardians, and legal representatives hereby voluntarily indemnify, release from liability, agree to defend, and hold harmless the University of Southern California, The USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies and any organization affiliated therewith, including all of their respective agents, employees, administrators, representatives, officers, trustees, students and assigns (collectively “USC”), for any accident, injury, illness, death, loss, theft, damage to person or property, or other consequences arising or resulting directly or indirectly from any activities which I may engage in, on, about or by access through any property owned, operated or managed by USC (whether permitted or not permitted by USC), including, without limitation, activities such as laboratory experiments where hazardous chemicals or other substances may be present, hiking, swimming, diving, snorkeling, scuba diving, wading, or boating and transportation to and from those activities (collectively, the “Activities”), including but not limited to claims arising from or related to USC’s negligence and/or products liability, including strict products liability. In the event that I am injured, I agree to assume any financial obligation, either through my health insurance, or through some other means, for any medical costs that I incur. USC assumes no responsibility for any medical expenses, injury or damage suffered by me in connection with my participation in the Activities.

IT IS MY INTENTION BY SIGNING BELOW TO EXPRESSLY ASSUME ALL RISK OF PERSONAL INJURY, DEATH, OR PROPERTY DAMAGE UPON MYSELF, TO THE EXCLUSION OF USC, AND TO EXEMPT AND RELEIVE USC FROM LIABILITY FOR PERSONAL INJURY, PROPERTY DAMAGE OR WRONGFUL DEATH.

By signing this agreement, I waive my right to bring any legal action now or at any time in the future to recover compensation or obtain any other remedy for any injury to myself or my property or for my death, however caused, arising out of my participation in the Activities. I further agree that I, my spouse, assignees, heirs, guardians, and legal representatives will not make any claim against, sue or attach the property of USC for any loss or damage resulting from my participation in the Activities. I understand that none of the Activities are endorsed, sanctioned, guaranteed, supervised or monitored by USC.

I acknowledge and affirm that I am not required to participate in any of the Activities as a condition to obtaining any academic degrees. I further acknowledge and affirm that I am not to be considered and employee of USC and that no benefits customarily afforded to employees of USC will be extended to me by virtue of my participation in the Activities. As an individual who actually IS employed by USC in a capacity unrelated to the Activities, I acknowledge that participating in the Activities is not a condition of my employment.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I AM AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL DANGERS INCIDENTAL TO THE ACTIVITIES, THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY, A WAIVER OF MY LEGAL RIGHT TO COLLECT DAMAGES IN THE EVENT OF INJURY, DEATH, OR PROPERTY DAMAGE AND A CONTRACT BETWEEN MYSELF AND USC AND SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

I EXPRESSLY AGREE THAT THIS RELEASE IS INTENDED TO BE AS BROAD AND INCLUSIVE AS THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA WILL ALLOW AND THAT IF ANY PORTION IS HELD INVALID, I AGREE THAT THE BALANCE SHALL, NOT WITHSTANDING, CONTINUE IN FULL LEGAL FORCE AND EFFECT.

Participant’s SIGNATURE ___________________________ Date _____________

NAME (PRINT) __________________________________________________________

If participant is a minor (under 18 years of age):
Parent/Legal Guardian’s SIGNATURE ___________________________ Date _____________

Name (PRINT) __________________________________________________________
USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies
Confidential Medical Information and
Emergency Notification Form

Name: ____________________________ Birth date: __________ Sex: ________

Street Address: ____________________________________________________________________

City: ____________________ State: ________ Zip: ______________

Cell Phone: ___________________________ Alt Phone: ___________________________

Date of Last Tetanus Shot: ______________ Drug Allergies: __________________________

Physician: ___________________________ Physician’s Phone: _________________________

Medical Conditions or previous surgery:

Regular Medications:

Special Dietary Requirements/Requests: (include food allergies and food preferences such as vegetarian/vegan/kosher etc.)

Special Physical Needs: (please include asthma/inhaler)

FAMILY INFORMATION

In case of emergency, please notify:

Emergency Contact: ___________________________ Cell Phone: __________

Relationship to You: ___________________________ Alt Phone: ________________________

INSURANCE INFORMATION

Medical/Hospital Insurance Carrier: _________________________________________________

Policy #: ___________________________ Toll-Free Number: ______________________________