

Annual Coast Day Photo and Essay Contests ask participants to show storytelling through science

Coast Day 2021 will feature a combination of online presentations and limited in-person events in all three counties, taking the coastal Delaware tradition statewide. In-person events will be Saturday, Oct. 2 and the online presentations will fall on Sunday, Oct. 3.

The theme of Coast Day 2021 is Storytelling and Science, and in keeping with that theme, the Coast Day Fifth-Grade Essay Contest and the Instagram Photo Contest will both ask participants to show off their storytelling skills.

The Fifth-Grade Essay Contest will be a creative writing project that asks students to choose an aquatic animal that is native to Delaware and write a short story about what it's like to be that particular animal. The animal can be one that lives in the ocean, or a pond, lake, river or stream. Students should think about the habitat the animal lives in, what the animal may eat or what it does to survive, and any challenges the animal might face. Stories will be judged based on accuracy, creativity, and story development. Entries due by 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 1.

For Instagram Photo Contest, participants are asked to put together a series of photos that, when viewed together, reflect Delmarva's natural landscape and tell a story or narrative about our ecosystem. For example, a series of photos showing the cycle of the tides, or shorebirds landing and taking flight on the beach. Regardless of subject, please submit a minimum of two photos that, when viewed together, meet the requirements of the 2021 theme.

To enter, share your photos on Instagram using the hashtag #DECoastDay and be sure to leave a brief description explaining the story behind the photos, how it relates to theme, the location, and other pertinent information in the caption. The deadline for submissions is 11:59PM, Wednesday, September 29.

For more information on the Coast Day contests and complete rules, [visit the Coast Day website](https://www.deseagrant.org/coast-day-contests) at <https://www.deseagrant.org/coast-day-contests>.