



Museum of Discovery and Science and Save Our Seas Foundation Team Up to Educate the Community about Protecting Our Oceans and Sea Life

The environmentally-focused partnership's FREE Distinguished Speaker Series brings global scientists, conservationists, researchers and educators to Museum guests of all ages

Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (April 28, 2021) – The **Museum of Discovery and Science (MODS)** is proud to announce its official partnership with the **Save Our Seas Foundation (SOSF)**, an organization dedicated to protecting and caring for the world's oceans with a specific focus on sharks, rays and skates. The goal is to increase awareness of the environmental, social and economic impact of ocean protection here and across the world and to educate people to make a difference.

“The Save Our Seas Foundation funds and supports research, conservation and education projects worldwide, focusing primarily on threatened marine life and their habitats,” said **Dr. James Lea**, CEO of the Save Our Seas Foundation. “Sharks are key to the fragile balance of our marine ecosystems. Many sharks are endangered, and we need to protect these important predators to help maintain this balance for healthy oceans. Our oceans are the life support of the Earth, regulating climate, fixing carbon, producing oxygen and providing food. Our partnership with MODS is very much aligned with the Save Our Seas Foundation's overall mission.”

The partnership features the Save Our Seas Distinguished Speaker Series, a free educational environmental science program that addresses and promotes critical issues in the fields of marine biology and conservation. The series is a blend of virtual and on-site programming geared towards the general public and students of all ages.

“The Museum of Discovery and Science serves as Broward County's dynamic hub for dialogue and innovation regarding resiliency and community solutions to the impact of climate change,” said **Joseph P. Cox**, president and CEO at MODS. “Our meaningful partnership with Save Our Seas Foundation highlights our aligned commitment to inspire people to care for our planet's precious natural resources. The speaker series connects the community with the latest research, science and what we can do right here at home to help save our oceans.”

MODS and SOSF collaborate to select highly relevant topics and themes, which are then coordinated with world-renowned Save Our Seas Foundation project leaders with research grants to take part in the event by sharing their latest findings.

The lineup for the 2021 Save Our Seas Distinguished Speaker Series at MODS includes scientists from around the globe who will discuss their research-discoveries across a spectrum of topics, from sharks to manta rays, sawfish, algal blooms and much more! The always-popular Sea Turtle and Shark Expert Panel Discussions will return this year as well.

The 2021 Save Our Seas Speaker Series Line Up*

Date/Method	Topic*	Speakers*
April 1 6 p.m. EDT Virtual Event	<u>Algal Blooms and Bull Sharks</u>	Lauran Brewster , postdoctoral fellow at Florida Atlantic University Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute
May 6 6 p.m. EDT Virtual Event	<i>British Columbia Whales</i>	Janie Wray , CEO and lead researcher for BC Whales
June 3 6 p.m. EDT Virtual Event	<i>Community Conservation in the Caribbean</i>	Catherine Macdonald , director of the Field School, lecturer at Rosenstiel School for Marine and Atmospheric Science at University of Miami
July 1 6 p.m. EDT Virtual Event	<i>Sharks and Pollution</i>	Kady Lyons , research scientist at Georgia Aquarium
August 5 6 p.m. EDT Virtual Event	<i>Microplastics</i>	Alina Wierczorek , Ph.D. student at the University of Ireland, Galway
September 2 6 p.m. EDT Virtual Event	<i>Manta Ray Panel Discussion</i>	Guy Stevens , Ph.D., Chief Executive and Founder of the Manta Trust Emily Humble , research fellow at the University of Edinburgh and genetics specialist at Manta Trust
October 7 6 p.m. EDT Virtual Event	<i>Shark Conservation Panel Discussion</i>	Stephen Kajiura , Ph.D., professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Florida Atlantic University Marianne Porter , Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of

Biological Sciences at Florida Atlantic University

Hannah Medd, founder of the American Shark Conservancy

November 7
1 p.m. EDT
On-site Event

*Sea Turtle Season
Wrap-Up*

Derek Burkholder, Ph.D., director of Broward County Sea Turtle Conservation Program and Marine Environmental Education Center, research scientist at the Guy Harvey Research Institute and Save Our Seas Shark Research Center

*Program lineup is subject to change.

MODS introduces guests to the wonders of the natural environment. Through exciting, interactive exhibits and programs, including a 20-seat Everglades Airboat Adventure simulator, encounters with 500 animals and an immersive bi-level series of Florida habitats that feature living corals and mangroves, visitors experience coastal habitats with various species of South Florida fishes, reptiles and invertebrates.

For more information and to register for the 2021 Save Our Seas Distinguished Speaker Series at MODS, please visit mods.org/distinguishedspeakerseries.

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ABOUT SAVE OUR SEAS FOUNDATION:

Founded in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2003, the Save Our Seas Foundation (SOSF) is a philanthropic organization that aims to protect and care for the world's oceans. Its support for research, conservation and education projects worldwide focuses primarily on endangered species of sharks, rays and skates, as well as their habitats.

Three permanent SOSF research and education centres reinforce its action in the Seychelles, South Africa and the USA.

Over the past 18 years, the SOSF has supported almost 400 projects worldwide, passionately upholding the founder's pledge to protect the populations of sharks, rays and skates whose presence is essential to the health and biological diversity of our seas. For more information about the Save Our Seas Foundation, please visit saveourseas.com.

ABOUT MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY AND SCIENCE:

Founded in 1976 as the Discovery Center, today MODS is at the forefront of science education, innovation and exploration. In addition to daily hours, MODS is currently offering virtual and offsite programming, which allows us to continue connecting people around the globe to

inspiring science - whether at home or in virtual classrooms. The Museum showcases more than 300 interactive exhibits, immersive films, experiential programs and an aviation-themed Makerspace. MODS currently offers virtual and offsite programs including boredom-busting experiences for children, families and adults - whether at home or in virtual classrooms. Families can enjoy super science shows and demonstrations, wild Creature Feature animal encounters, awesome avatar tours and private experiences, mind-blowing Makerspace labs, cool camps, unforgettable birthday parties, engaging field trips and STEM curricula, professional development workshops for educators, distinguished speakers, and more.

The Museum celebrates diversity and welcomes visitors from all walks of life. The Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Starting Memorial Day 2021, MODS will be open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. MODS is located downtown at 401 SW Second Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312. For more information about the Museum, please visit mods.org or call 954.467.MODS (6637).

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