



# News Release

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 25, 2011

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Melissa McCarville

Shedd Aquarium

312-692-3330

mmccarville@sheddaquarium.org

Laurel White

Public Communications Inc.

312-558-1770, ext. 144

lwhite@pcipr.com

## **SHEDD CALLS ON LOCAL STUDENTS TO DECK THE HALLS WITH SUSTAINABLE SPLENDOR**

*Wreath-Cycled Classroom Challenge promotes cheer, creativity and caring in Chicagoland classrooms*

**CHICAGO** – [Shedd Aquarium](#) encourages Chicago-area classrooms to reduce, reuse and wreath-cycle this holiday season with its Wreath-Cycled Classroom Challenge! Students from kindergarten to high school levels are charged with decking Shedd's halls in holiday splendor with sustainable wreaths, built of 100 percent recycled materials.

Students are encouraged to use items found in their homes and classrooms, from plastic bottles to paper towel rolls, to build their wreaths. Wreaths will be displayed in the aquarium's *Caribbean Reef* exhibit all season long from Dec. 1 to Jan. 5, spreading the holiday cheer!

This year's theme, "Caring for Animals," encourages students to reflect on how reducing, reusing and recycling helps care for animals. Each wreath must be accompanied by a short essay addressing the subject.

"Shedd is thrilled to host the Wreath-Cycled Classroom Challenge. It is a festive, hands-on activity to start kids thinking about sustainability in a fun way," said Melissa Williams, vice president of learning and education at Shedd. "We hope that this contest provides an opportunity for classrooms to be creative, while connecting to curriculum about sustainable lifestyles and reflecting on the effect of green living on our world."

On Dec. 22, all classrooms vying for the top prize are invited to Shedd, free of charge, for a holiday celebration where the competition's winners will be announced. In addition to the overall challenge winner, prizes will be awarded to the most creative, visually appealing and festive wreaths, as well as the wreaths with the best use of recycled materials, the best educational message and the fan favorite. Photos of the wreaths will be posted on Shedd's [Facebook page](#), where fans can vote for their favorites.

The winning classroom will be treated to a field trip to Shedd, hosted by members of Shedd's Auxiliary Board, which will include transportation to and from the aquarium, lunch and treats. Everyone is a winner in the Shedd challenge, as runners-up will receive items, such as free classroom discovery kits and educational programming.

Shedd will accept the first 250 submissions. Teachers may drop off their wreaths on November 11, 12, 18 or 19 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Every teacher who drops off a wreath will receive complimentary admission to Shedd for themselves and three guests for that day!

Visit [www.sheddaquarium.org/wreath](http://www.sheddaquarium.org/wreath) for more information about the contest and important guidelines.

For more information about Shedd Aquarium, please call 312-939-2438 or visit [www.sheddaquarium.org](http://www.sheddaquarium.org).

###

*Shedd Aquarium is supported by the people of Chicago and the State of Illinois.  
Shedd Aquarium is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and the  
Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums*

Connect with Shedd Aquarium online through [Facebook](#); [Twitter](#); [YouTube](#); and [Flickr](#)!