Logo

**Calling All Teachers and Youth Leaders!**

**XX Beach Sign Project**

**Create artwork that can be transformed into a sign for XX beaches.**

The XX ecosystem plays a critical role in supporting long-distance migratory shorebirds on the journey from their wintering grounds in South America to Arctic to nest. It also provides a rest stop for these frequent flyers on their return trip. Provide 2-3 sentence on importance of XX, including WHSRN status.

Using art as a tool for conservation, youth are invited to create artwork that would be used as educational signs on the beaches. These signs will help more people understand how they can be a respectful visitor by sharing the beach with shorebirds, allowing them to feed undisturbed. They can also encourage more people to get involved in conservation actions. Youth generated signage is often viewed as very welcoming and engaging and has received very positive feedback from the public.

A select number of designs will be printed on weather-proof materials and securely displayed on XX beaches. Remaining signs may be displayed in exhibits at nature centers, libraries, community centers, schools, or businesses.

XX is sponsoring this youth sign project in partnership. Youth signs on XX will join other similar projects in other important shorebird habitats across the entire Western Hemisphere.

Photo from your Site

**Guidelines**

Teachers or youth group leaders are encouraged to conduct this project as a group activity, with each student producing their own sign. Youth may also enter independently.

1. Artwork must be 8.5” x 8.5” on white paper or cardstock, though large amounts of color is encouraged. Paper is available from the project organizer.
2. Mediums that are eligible to be printed as a sign include: crayon, marker, paint, colored pencil. Other mediums including oil, acrylics, various types of collages are welcome, but they may not be eligible to be printed as a sign and will only be included in the exhibit.
3. Artwork must be appropriate for all ages. If the selection committee determines that artwork is not appropriate it will not be displayed either as a sign or with the exhibits.
4. Entrants can be between 8 years-14 years.
5. A single entrant can submit up to 2 designs.
6. All artwork should be clearly labeled on the back with the student’s name, teacher and school (if applicable).
7. Deadline for all entries: TBD
8. To arrange a pick-up of artwork or to submit high-resolution scanned artwork contact project organizer. Artwork may also be mailed in a Do Not Bend envelope to: TBD
9. Original artwork will not be returned to youth.
10. All entries become the sole property of the XX program and its participating organizations.

**Beach Placement and Rotating gallery**

Unfortunately, not all student designs will become signs on the beaches. A selection committee will select the signs that are best suited for the beaches.

The remaining signs will compiled into rotating galleries that can be shared throughout the state at libraries, nature centers, schools, businesses, or other public facilities. They will also be shared via social media. If you are interested in facilitating a display of one of these galleries, please contact project organizers.

**For more information:**

For assistance with guidelines, to schedule an educational presentation or field trip, or to submit artwork contact:

ADD A LOCAL CONTACT

**Tips for making an excellent sign**

* Use only one message. We have provided several sample messages, but only one should be used on each sign.
* Use eye-catching, bright colors. While it is not necessary for the entire sign to be color, it is important to remember that this will be outside and in order for it to be noticeable on the beach we will need bright colors on a large portion of the paper/sign.
* Realistic OR non-traditional wildlife colors are welcome. Sample shorebird photos have been provided. However, it is NOT required that the birds in the artwork match what a bird looks like in real-life. Creative use of colors and designs is encouraged.

**Sample Messages**

Here are a few sample messages that can be incorporated into the signs in order to encourage people to be respectful on the beaches. Before printing, partners will add a website and short sentence to explain the story, any beach closures, depending on the topic of the sign.

* Birds Borrow the Beach
* Shorebird Rest Stop
* Shhh… Shorebirds eating here.
* XX mile flight, these shorebirds sure need a rest.

Consider including photos, quick facts, or background information to help inspire teachers and youth leaders.

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The youth signs here at XX will join other youth signs in sharing the shorebird story at critical habitats around the Western Hemisphere, including at WHSRN sites.

**What is WHSRN?**

The Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) is a science-based, partnership-driven, conservation strategy for protecting the ecological integrity of critical habitats for shorebirds throughout the Americas.