



NEWS

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ROTARY CLUB OF SANTA CRUZ OBTAINS DISTRICT GRANT TO SUPPORT LOCAL O'NEILL SEA ODYSSEY ORGANIZATION

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. - On Wed. Oct. 5, the Rotary Club of Santa Cruz presented a check for \$4,401 to local organization O'Neill Sea Odyssey. These funds were obtained through an application process for a Rotary District 5170 grant.

The Rotary Club of Santa Cruz is proud of continuing its commitment to the community and its ongoing support of the O'Neill Sea Odyssey sea stewardship program serving youth between 4th and 6th grade. Previous grants and gifts provided to OSO by the club include iPads for real time transmission of collected data from the catamaran to the server, teacher time and boat materials. This grant covered partial costs for two classes as augmented by Jack O'Neill. Rotarians Sid Slatter and Larry Wallerstein were pleased to assist in the Wednesday morning learning sail and classroom discovery sessions.

O'Neill Sea Odyssey (OSO) engages 4th-6th grade youth with a hands-on science education field trip on a 65-foot catamaran on Monterey Bay and in a shore-side education center, in addition to science curriculum for the classroom. It is free to the students and each class completes a community service project. OSO also funds bus transportation to and from the site. The morning class pictured here engages approximately 30 students.

This program has been proven to increase the participating students' awareness of watersheds and the ocean they flow to and encouraged them to take steps to protect them. Participants have also been found to advocate ocean and watershed stewardship to their families and friends.

Rotary International is one of the world's largest community service organizations, with more than 35,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. Rotary clubs work to improve lives at both the local and international levels, from helping families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world.

The Rotary Club of Santa Cruz meets every Friday from noon - 1:30 p.m. at Back Nine Grill at Pasatiempo Inn. For more information visit santacruzrotary.com.

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