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23rd annual St. Louis River Quest sets sail May 11-14; Nearly 1,500 sixth-graders prepare for land & sea adventure!

Duluth, Minn. USA – Like every May for the past 23 years, hundreds of area sixth-graders will board the Vista Star next week – all carrying RIVER QUEST passports to document their adventures on land and water – as they explore the Duluth-Superior Harbor on May 11-14, learning all they can about the St. Louis River Estuary.

The 23rd annual St. Louis River Quest is expected to draw a record 1,494 students from 15 area schools to the waterfront this year. During 2.5-hour excursions, students and their teachers are introduced to topics ranging from pollution prevention and stopping aquatic invaders to personal water safety and commercial shipping.

Divided into small groups, students participate in a total of 12 unique learning stations – six on the boat and six landside stations in Pioneer Hall at the DECC. Students “switch” venues halfway through their respective morning or afternoon session.

This outreach education program continues to grow and evolve. Most recently, learning station sponsors have worked directly with educators to align their resource materials with specific Wisconsin and Minnesota state science and social studies standards to make the entire experience an even more effective teaching tool.

St. Louis River Quest is a community-based, volunteer organization founded in 1993 to provide area sixth-grade students with hands-on learning experiences that enhance their awareness and understanding of the interrelated commercial, industrial, recreational and environmental values of the Duluth-Superior Harbor – the estuary of the Louis River.

This year, with generous support provided by nearly 50 local organizations and individual donors, River Quest will involve some 55 teachers and 1,500 students from 15 area schools, plus more than 100 volunteers and chaperones. Since its inception, this outreach education program will have served over 20,000 students once next week’s event wraps up.

Students are encouraged to submit essays or poems about their waterfront experience as part of the event’s ‘Captain Ray Skelton River Quest Writing Contest,’ named in honor of one of the program’s founders. Winners’ names are added to traveling plaques to recognize the student’s writing abilities and the school’s participation in River Quest. Contest winners in 2014 were: Coriella Sheetz (essay), homeschooled in Cloquet-Carlton, and Shay Callaway (poetry), Ordean East.

-more-
### 2015 River Quest Learning Stations on the *Vista Star*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Sponsor/Organization</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cold Hand Luke (Hypothermia &amp; Water Safety)</strong></td>
<td>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What is the Es-chew-air-ee?</strong></td>
<td>Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>It floats, you don’t. Wear your life jacket!</strong></td>
<td>Duluth Sail &amp; Power Squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bringing back the Piping Plover</strong></td>
<td>St. Louis River Alliance (M/T)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fishy Physics</strong></td>
<td>Great Lakes Aquarium/ (W/Th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Get Habitattitude!</strong></td>
<td>Minnesota Sea Grant Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Observation Station</strong></td>
<td>St. Louis River Quest</td>
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<td><strong>Bacteria: The Real Workers at WLSSD</strong></td>
<td>Western Lake Superior Sanitary District</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>What’s the difference between Storm &amp; Sanitary Sewers?</strong></td>
<td>City of Duluth Utilities (M/T)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stream Table</strong></td>
<td>USDA Forest Service–Superior Nat’l Forest (W/Th)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Water Power (Hydroelectric)</strong></td>
<td>Minnesota Power                           (M/T)</td>
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<td><strong>Great Lakes Cargo Capital</strong></td>
<td>Duluth Seaway Port Authority (W/Th)</td>
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<td><strong>Sustainable Forestry</strong></td>
<td>Verso Corporation                          (M/T)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Industrial Water Use: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle</strong></td>
<td>Sappi                                      (W/Th)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Oil in the Environment</strong></td>
<td>U.S. Coast Guard &amp; USCG Auxiliary</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Break the Grip of the Rip</strong></td>
<td>Twin Ports Rip Currents</td>
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### 2015 River Quest Donors

**Platinum $1,000**

- Duluth Seaway Port Authority
- Gerdau-Duluth Grinding Ball
- ISD 709 Duluth Public Schools
- Minnesota Sea Grant Program
- Sappi
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- Vista Fleet

**Gold $500**

- City of Duluth Utilities
- Enbridge
- Genesis Attachments
- Graymont (WI) LLC
- Hallett Dock Co.
- Holcim (US) Inc.
- Kreh Ojard & Associates, P.A.
- Kwik Trip
- Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Minnesota Power
- USDA Forest Service – Superior National Forest
- Verso Corporation
- Western Lake Superior Sanitary District

**Silver $250**

- Altec HiLine, LLC
- AMI Consulting Engineers P.A.
- Calumet Superior, LLC
- Hunt Electric
- Marine Tech
- Midwest Energy Resources Co.
- TKDA

**Bronze $100**

- A.W. Kuettel & Sons
- Allouez Marine Supply
- Grandma’s Restaurant Co.
- Great Lakes Aquarium
- LHB
- David Moeller & Bryce Nixon
- Brian & Melissa Resch
- South Pier Inn
- Adele & Steve Yorde

*For more information about River Quest, to view teacher resource materials and/or read writing samples, visit [www.seagrant.umn.edu/riverquest](http://www.seagrant.umn.edu/riverquest).*