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CIEE Student Service Project – Children’s Festival for 30th Anniversary of the Bonaire National Marine Park



CIEE students Alissa Rickborn (left) and Marylou Hildebrand (back) managed the t-shirt tie dyeing stand



Three friends painting a mural



Dr. Amanda Hollebhone tries to get the paint out



Julie Sickels (front) and Michelle Von Sternberg (back) painting faces

On Sunday, April 19th, CIEE Research Station Bonaire held a Children’s Festival to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Bonaire National Marine Park. The community service event was organized by CIEE students as part of their Tropical Marine Conservation Biology course taught by Dr. Amanda Hollebhone. Twenty-two children, plus their parents or grandparents attended the event, which was free. The CIEE students made brownies and fruit punch for the celebration. They prepared a slide show of Bonaire’s fish, corals, and sponges inside the research station where attendees could cool off and have a snack. Outside, the children tie dyed complimentary t-shirts with the assistance of Marylou Hildebrand from the University of California, San Diego and Alissa Rickborn from Arizona State University. Face painting was done by Michelle Von Sternberg and Julie Sickels, both of Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida. The children also painted 2 large murals of sea life with the assistance of Nathan Landry from the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth and Katherine Kirschbaum from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. The CIEE Interns, Amanda deVillers and Anna Malek helped out as well. The children’s murals will be displayed outside the research station for the community. The children enjoyed the activities and the CIEE students and staff had a great time meeting the children, parents and grandparents of Bonaire!



Nate Landry painting logo on mural



Katie Kirschbaum helps out with the mural



Intern, Amanda deVillers, face painting