

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 17, 2005

Contact: Regina Fitch,
Communications Coordinator

856.361.1015 or rfitch@njaas.org

35 CAMDEN YOUTH HEAD FOR THE EVERGLADES

Camden, NJ –On June 26, 2005, after a year of hard work and intense learning, the students of the Camden Aquarium Urban Science Enrichment (CAUSE) program will head south for a week of kayaking, snorkeling, and educational fun.

The New Jersey Academy for Aquatic Sciences, best known as the former operator of the New Jersey State Aquarium, has kept very busy since relinquishing those operational responsibilities. Still functioning in a non-profit capacity, the Academy has remained focused on science education, research, and outreach throughout its 15+ years of existence. For over ten of those years CAUSE has served as the most convincing and successful proof of that mission.

Established in 1993, the **CAUSE** program recruits students from high schools in Camden and its surrounding communities. The program involves its students in an effort to strengthen academic performance and expose youth to various avenues in the science and education fields. Most remarkably, since it was created CAUSE has seen all of its past participants graduate from high school and 93% have gone on to college.

This month, a group of 35 program participants will embark on their annual **field excursion**, a five-day trip to **Southern Florida**. The trip serves to end off an academic year packed with workshops, classes and community service projects. The trip, in addition to being a great escape for our youth—many of whom have never left the area—will serve to solidify much of what they have learned throughout the year. This experience will give the teens some **first-hand experience** to draw from as they work through the summer teaching a uniquely designed day-camp curriculum to local elementary school students.

This year our teens will be traveling along with another group from a sister program in Cincinnati, Ohio. While in Florida the combined group will learn and experience much. A few items on the packed agenda include an afternoon touring a **sea turtle hospital** at Juno Beach, **exploring the Everglades** via air-boat, and a day studying and **snorkeling** in the coral reefs gardens of Pennekamp State Park. Additionally, the students will **visit major universities and museums** during the trip.

The New Jersey Academy for Aquatic Sciences promotes the understanding, appreciation and protection of aquatic life and habitats through research, education and youth development programs.

For more information or to get involved, please call 856.361.1015 or visit www.njaas.org.

#