



SOS USERS COLLABORATIVE NETWORK



Growing Presence of Science On a Sphere®

Science On a Sphere® is a 68 inch-diameter globe designed to show animated images of the atmosphere, oceans, or land of a planet or moon. The ability to visualize current global processes using real life data makes Science On a Sphere® a flexible and astounding tool for immersing children and adults in the wonder of Earth system science.

There are currently exhibits featuring SOS at museums and science centers throughout the United States, and the number of these exhibits continues to grow . More than 33 million people per year view SOS. NOAA's Office of Education (OEd) has provided over \$3.7 million in funding to develop such exhibits and to create dynamic content for SOS and other spherical display systems.



NOAA Photo by Will von Dauster

A Group Effort



NOAA's partnership with the informal science education institutions that display SOS helps to advance the overall goals of the SOS education program, which are: (1) to improve the understanding of how spherical display systems can be used to enhance informal science education learning, and, (2) to build environmental literacy among the general public through increased use of NOAA data and NOAA-related data and data products in informal education institutions.

To keep the groups involved in the SOS education program working together and focused on these goals, OEd has formed the **SOS Users Collaborative Network**. This network consists of institutions that have Science On a Sphere® installed (or in the process of being installed) as part of a public exhibit, or organizations that are currently working with these institutions to support the development and application of the technology. The number of institutions involved is about to increase since OEd is currently in the process of awarding funding to a set of new projects that will create more exhibits featuring spherical display systems as well as expand the content available for these systems.

The institutions involved in the network meet in person and over the phone to discuss the SOS system and software, creation and cataloging of content, related exhibitions, new methods for delivering content via SOS, and many other issues relevant to this effort. OEd is also involving the network in a major initiative to assess the education impact of SOS exhibits. By working together the network members are advancing their collective ability to deliver messages with SOS.

<http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/network/>