

# GUIDEBOOK

## ➡ What is a Data Jam?

The ORCA Data Jam is a unique competition that challenges entrants to look at real science datasets collected by actual ORCA citizen scientists and come up with a creative and artistic way to display and share their findings with others. Participants will choose a dataset of interest and then graph, analyze, and creatively interpret their results in a compelling and unique way. Students (grades upper elementary, middle and high school) and adults will stretch their imaginations to create a graphic, story, play, painting, song, dance, sculpture, or other art project being sure to accurately summarize and portray the trends from the data. Data Jammers can compete individually or in small teams (2-8 members) for the opportunity to win great prizes.

Why get involved? Check out this short video: [https://youtu.be/Yzsw\\_SV2t\\_8](https://youtu.be/Yzsw_SV2t_8)

## ➡ Registration

Student participants or teams are required to have an adult advisor who registers and guides them. Advisors can be parents, teachers, guardians, and other mentors.

\*Registration is required. To register, simply email [jschwadron@teamorca.org](mailto:jschwadron@teamorca.org) to let us know you have a team/individual that would like to compete in the 2025 ORCA Data Jam.

Include: Name of your school or group  
Name, email, phone number of team advisor  
Name(s) of team member(s) and email address(es) (no more than 8 members) Grade Level

We will contact the team advisor with a confirmation email and any future updates including mentor meetings, project submission information, and showcase details. Registration is non-binding but helps us estimate the number of judges and showcase details.

## ➔ Important Dates/ Deadlines

There will be several important dates/deadlines. If your team feels they cannot meet a deadline, please contact us and we will try to accommodate your needs.

Jan 1 <sup>st</sup> – April 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Register for the ORCA Data Jam</b> A free virtual or in-person classroom visit from an Ocean Research & Conservation Association (ORCA) educator to introduce the ORCA Data Jam or assist with student projects is offered to those that register <u>before</u> April 12 <sup>th</sup> .
January – late April	Teams work on Data Jam projects. Science Data Jam mentors are available to meet with registrant(s) to assist in their Data Jam journey. Please email us to schedule a mentor meeting. <a href="mailto:jschwadron@teamorca.org">jschwadron@teamorca.org</a>
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Project submission DUE!</b> Physical projects and recordings (dance, song, animation, etc.) are to be dropped off at our Center for Citizen Science Center in Vero Beach or uploaded to our Google Doc folder. Under certain circumstances, we can also arrange project pickups.
May 8 <sup>th</sup> 4:30-6:00 pm	<b>ORCA Data Jam Showcase!</b> Projects are displayed and teams are encouraged to present their song/dance/poem, etc. during the event. Students, teachers, parents, and community members are welcome to attend the showcase where prizes will be awarded.

## ➔ Data

We provide local datasets collected by ORCA Citizen Scientists on our Pollution Mapping Citizen Science Project, One Health Fish Monitoring, and A Day in the Life of the Indian River Lagoon projects. Our datasets are available as Excel and are assessable on our [Data Jam webpage](#). These datasets range in complexity, so be sure to have your team look at the available datasets closely.

Students should start by reviewing the available data and generating a research question based on the information provided. There are sample research questions on each project reference sheet. Once a research question is created, the team should formulate a hypothesis and begin determining what data is needed to address this question. Science mentors are available to assist teams on developing their research questions and discussing appropriate ways to analyze and assess their data. If you would like to schedule an in-person meeting with an ORCA scientist at our Center for Citizen Science, Vero Beach or virtually, please email [jschwadron@teamorca.org](mailto:jschwadron@teamorca.org). We are happy to help!

Data Jam projects are judged on both a creative component (75%) and a brief written component (25%). The ORCA Data Jam will be using a slightly modified [Hudson Data Jam Competition Judging Rubric](#).

## ➡ Submission/Judging

**All projects are due by April 25, 2025.** Works of art and reports should be physically submitted to ORCA's Center for Citizen Science no later than 5pm. Submissions including dance, song, musical compositions, spoken word, etc. should be recorded and submitted electronically by April 25, 2025. These files can be sent to [jschwadron@teamorca.org](mailto:jschwadron@teamorca.org) via <https://wetransfer.com/>

## ➡ Teams

Students and adults can work on projects on their own or in groups (2-8 members).

## ➡ Prizes

There are four divisions in the competition: upper elementary, middle school, high school, and adult. Prizes are awarded in each category and will be announced at the ORCA Data Jam Showcase.

## ➡ Parts of the Project

Each submission to the ORCA Data Jam will include a short written component **and** an interpretive creative component- although the fun part of this project is the ART!

**Written Component.** Each team must submit a short report that summarizes their project for judges and others to review. The written component is worth 25% of the total project score. The report should be completed using the **ORCA Data Jam Written Report** (★ see template at the end of this document).

**Interpretive Creative Component.** The creative piece should **clearly** explain the trend or pattern of the data to someone without the scientific knowledge to interpret the dataset or graphs on their own. Skits, videos, songs, puppet shows, poems, photographs, exhibits, sculptures, interactive displays and more are encouraged. Those projects that require a live performance will be judged as an electronic recording or YouTube video and should be less than 5 minutes long. The creative project is worth 75% of the total project score. This is your opportunity to tell the story of the data and communicate your interpretations through art.

We recommend reading the scoring rubric and detailed information about what the Written Component and the Creative Component entail.

For examples of interesting examples of Data Jam submission entered elsewhere, please visit:

<https://teamorca.org/data-jam-projects>

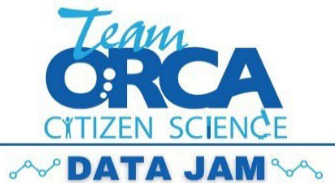
[https://polar-ice.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/DataJam\\_paper.pdf](https://polar-ice.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/DataJam_paper.pdf)

## **Become Inspired**

<https://youtu.be/pexGREITvok?si=LOMmhPES9KiAiGa>

[https://youtu.be/Yzsw\\_SV2t\\_8?si=Qfev2\\_41pKCO6xC7](https://youtu.be/Yzsw_SV2t_8?si=Qfev2_41pKCO6xC7)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T\\_tIG5mo1DM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T_tIG5mo1DM)



# WRITTEN REPORT

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Creator(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Advisor (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

ORCA Dataset Analyzed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attention parents:** Please note that photographs and video of students and projects will be taken throughout Data Jam. These will be used by ORCA for marketing and publicity in e-mails, on our website and on social media or in third party publications. Media will also be at the showcase and awards. To opt-out of photos, please contact [jschwadron@teamorca.org](mailto:jschwadron@teamorca.org).

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## Research Question:

State your research question and claim about the dataset.

## Data Representation:

Provide your graph(s), table(s), or other type of data summary below. *If you need more space, use the backside of this page, or an additional sheet of paper.*

Describe trends or patterns you observe in your figure(s).

## Data Interpretation:

What are your conclusions and how do your results compare to your research question?

Based on your findings and conclusions, are there actions that should be taken and further information gathered? *If you need more space, use the backside of this page, or an additional sheet of paper.*