

# Field Trips

Days 4 and 5 will be in the Florida Keys.

**Additional Fees:** In addition to paying course registration fees, you will also need to pay the fees for field activities and accommodation in the Keys.

**Fee for Field Activities: \$135.** This fee will be confirmed after course registration and a separate link for payment will be sent to all students.

**Fees for Accommodations:** Please find accommodations in the keys near Marathon, FL. Instructors will be staying in Marathon arriving May 22 and departing May 25.

## Day 3

**Date:** Thursday May 16, 2024 | **Time:** 8:30AM-12:30PM

**Location:** Mary McLeod Bethune Park – West Side Ladyfish Ave, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169

We will end the day at the Marine Discovery Center located at 520 Barracuda Blvd., New Smyrna beach.

**Field Trip Description:** Meet at the pavilion near the restrooms to complete Part II of the Seagrass Presentation. Annie Roddenberry (Biological Scientist III, FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) will introduce the seagrass monitoring project with specific emphasis on Mosquito Lagoon seagrass. Students will then prepare to kayak out to the seagrass monitoring locations and collect seagrass health data while snorkeling/wading in shallow water (2-4 feet deep). Students will also visit several oyster restoration sites and learn about the seagrass growing in these areas. Additional discussions will cover aquaculture leases with a specific focus on clam aquaculture and the benefits they provide to health seagrass beds.

**Equipment Needs:** Kayaks, paddles, and PFDs (available if needed), Mask and snorkel (available if needed), closed toe water shoes. Sun protection, dry bag, clothes you do not mind getting wet, and a change of dry clothes.

**Lunch and Snacks:** Please bring plenty of water or other hydrating beverages, snacks, and lunch. We will eat lunch while on the water.

## Day 4

**Date:** Thursday May 23, 2024

**Time:** 9:30AM-4:30PM

**Location:** Mote Marine Laboratory 24244 Overseas Hwy, Summerland Key, FL 33042

We will then head to Captain Hooks for snorkel trip 29675 Overseas Hwy, Big Pine Key, FL 33043

**Field Trip Description:** We will spend the morning touring the Mote Marine Laboratory and their Coral Reef Research and Restoration facilities. In the afternoon we will take a boat charter to different coral reefs focusing on healthy and restored reefs.

**Equipment Needs: Mask** and snorkel (available if needed) closed toe water shoes. Sun protection, dry bag, clothes you do not mind getting wet, and a change of dry clothes.

**Lunch and Snacks:** Please bring plenty of water or other hydrating beverages, snacks, and lunch. We will eat lunch while on the water.

## **Day 5**

**Date:** Friday May 24, 2024

**Time:** 9:30AM-4:30PM \* times may slightly vary as schedule for the day is finalized

**Location:** 2796 Overseas Highway #100

**Field Trip Description:** We will have two rotations. One rotation will be at FWC facility with a presentation on sponges, and a tour of the facility. The other rotation will focus on hands on sponge restoration.

**Equipment Needs:** Mask and snorkel (available if needed), and closed toe water shoes. Sun protection, dry bag, clothes you do not mind getting wet, and a change of dry clothes.

**Lunch and Snacks:** Please bring plenty of water or other hydrating beverages, snacks, and lunch. We will eat lunch while on the water.

## **Instructor Contact Information**

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