

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: \$175. 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 13 and departing May 16. There are numerous options within the Marathon area, please find accommodations that best fit your needs.

Day 3

Date: Thursday May 7, 2026

Time: 8:30AM-12:30PM

Location: 116 N Causeway, New Smyrna beach, FL 32169 Afternoon will be at Marine Discovery Center located at 520 Barracuda Blvd., New Smyrna Beach.

Field Trip Description: Meet at the MDC boat dock to complete Part II of the Seagrass Presentation. Students will board the MDC's boat the Discovery and 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 monitoring locations and collect seagrass health data. Students will also visit several oyster restoration sites and learn about the seagrass growing in these areas.

Equipment Needs: Mask and snorkel (available if needed; this is mainly if anyone would like to practice before the keys trip), 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 may eat lunch while on the water, or we should have time when we get back.

Day 4

Date: Thursday May 14, 2026

Time: 9:30AM-4:30PM

Location: Captain Hooks for a snorkel trip 29675 Overseas Hwy, Big Pine Key, FL 33043

We will then head to Mote Marine Laboratory 24244 Overseas Hwy, Summerland Key, FL 33042

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

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 15, 2026

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 be touring the FWC facility and learning about the current and historical sponge restoration practices. In the afternoon we will be heading out on boats for a field activity involving sponge restoration.

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 or before boarding the boats.

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