

FIELDTRIP GUIDE

EDUCATION AND VOLUNTEER DIVISION



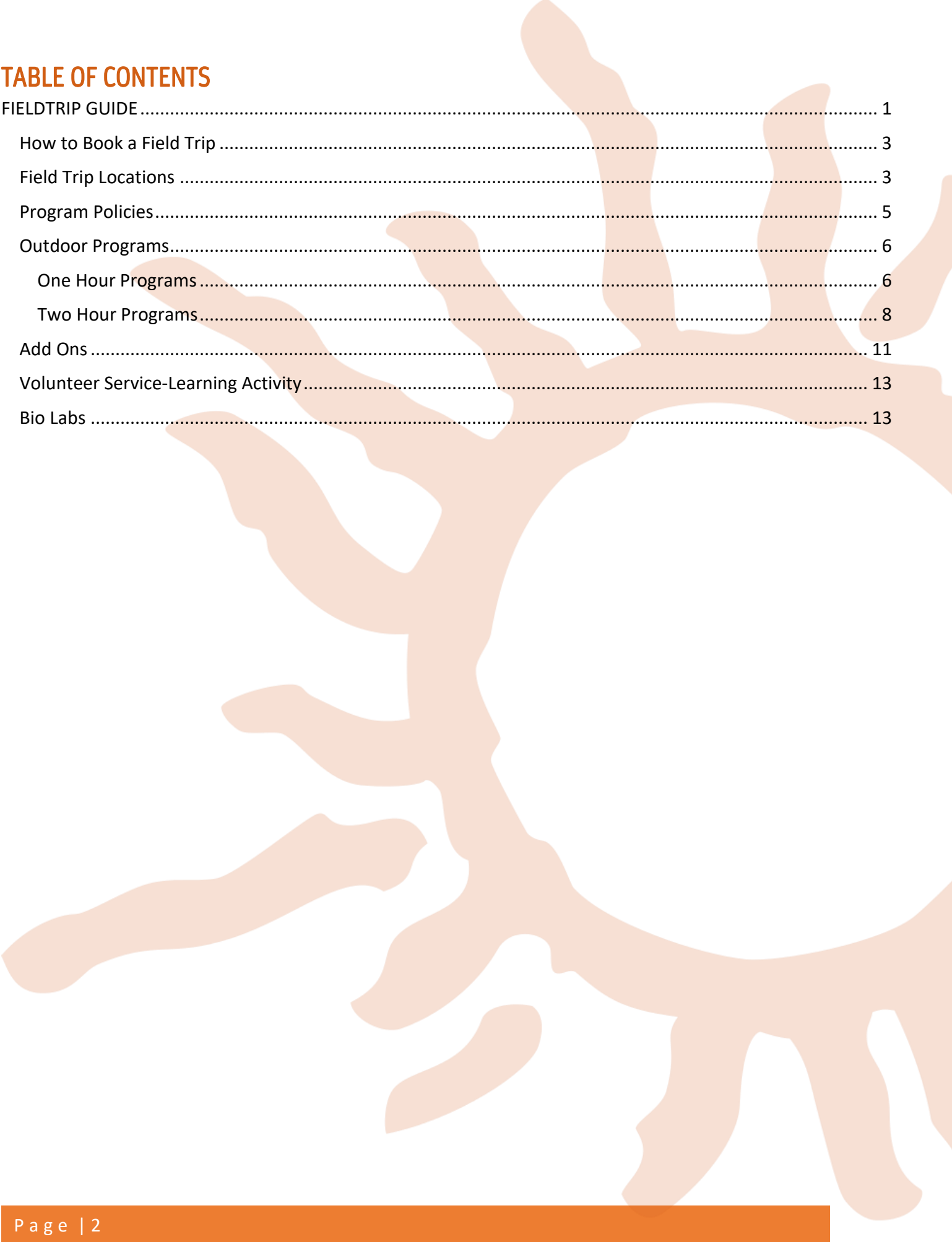


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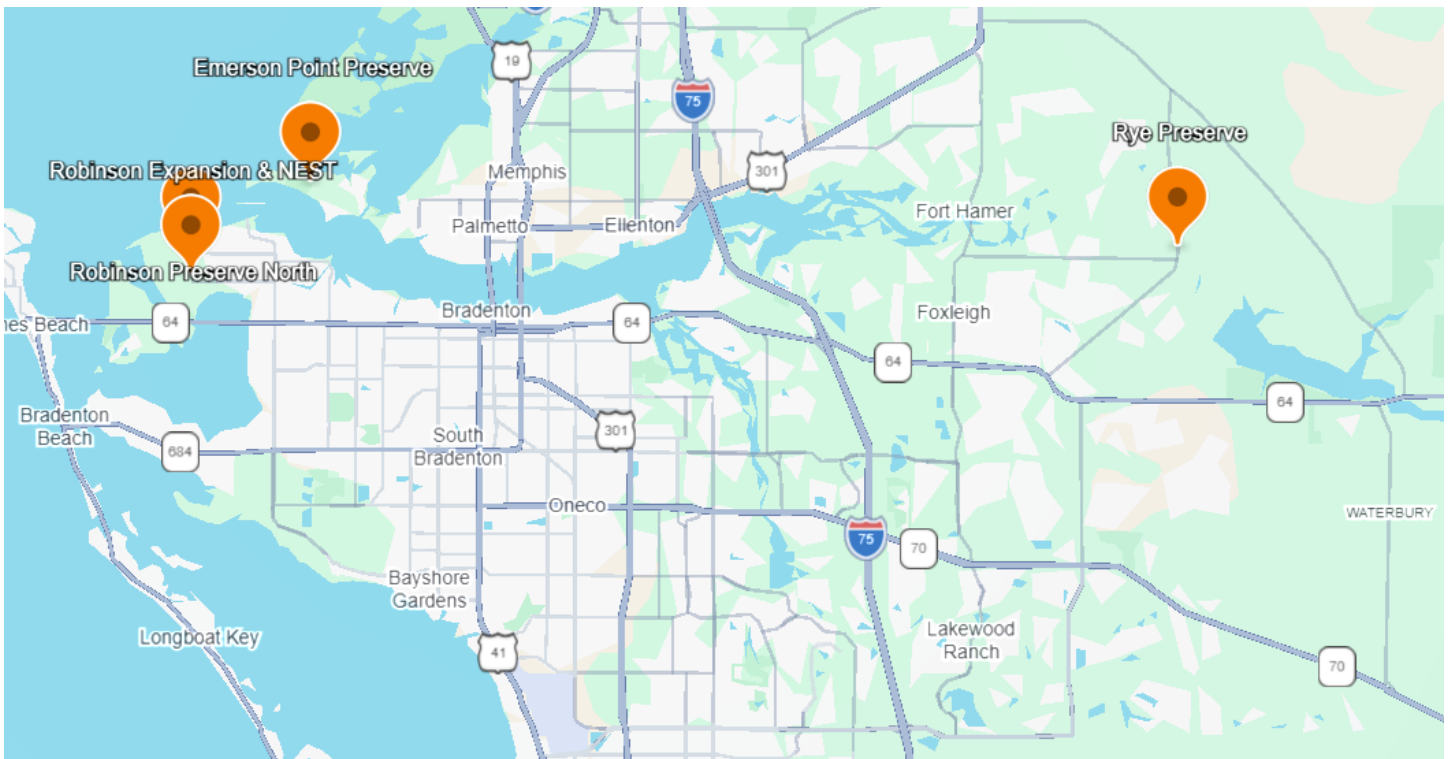
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How to Book a Field Trip

1. Please review this packet carefully and **complete your online field trip application at <https://forms.gle/CRxriuyfwuV5tg7u8>**. Once your application is submitted, please allow three business days for processing.
2. Our staff will reach out to you to confirm the details of your trip and recommend adjustments, if necessary.
3. Once the details are settled, you will need to make a RecTrac account by visiting: https://parks.mymanatee.org/wbWSC/webtrac.wsc/household.html?interfaceparameter=WebTrac_NaturalResources
4. Notify staff you have made an account and you will receive an invoice which must be paid at least two weeks before the field trip date. Bio Labs must be paid at least a month before program date.
5. One week prior to your program date, we will email you a final confirmation including directions, what to wear, contact information for your trip host(s), and our Youth Waiver form as a fillable PDF.
6. **Waivers must be completed and signed by a parent or guardian for each youth participant. One child per waiver.** Waivers can be returned via email to ecoevents@mymanatee.org before your trip or printed and brought with you on the day of your trip.
7. Email us at ecoevents@mymanatee.org if you have any questions or if your plans change.
8. Arrive on the day of your trip, meet your trip host(s), submit any outstanding Youth Waivers, and have a blast!

Field Trip Locations



Robinson Preserve North

Robinson Preserve is in northwest Bradenton, with the north entrance located at [1704 99th St NW, Bradenton, FL 34209](#). This coastal preserve consists of 682 acres that is a mix of preserved mangroves, tidal marsh, and former agricultural lands which have undergone an incredible transformation to coastal wetland habitat. Our north entrance features the Valentine House visitor's center, a kayak launch, public restrooms, trail access to a 40 ft observation tower, and a screened pavilion with a capacity of 32 people.

Robinson Preserve Expansion and NEST Nature Center

Opened in 2018, the Robinson Preserve Expansion and NEST Nature Center are located at [10299 9th Ave NW, Bradenton, FL 34209](#). The NEST Nature Center is an iconic multi-purpose community space. Behind the NEST building, you will find the Canopy Zone, a compact, two-story structure with adventure park elements including a series of boardwalks, rope bridges, climbing nets, and slides. Public restrooms, a kayak launch, and a screened pavilion with a capacity of 30 people are available in the Expansion.

Emerson Point Preserve

Emerson Point Preserve is a 365-acre peninsula situated on the west end of Sned Island at [5801 17th St W, Palmetto, FL 34221](#). It offers a wide variety of coastal wildlife and habitats, including mangrove swamps, pine uplands, freshwater ponds, and coastal hammocks. Ancient and historic remains of Florida's early inhabitants are accessible and well-interpreted to give a sense of what life in Manatee County was like before and during its settlement. Emerson Point Preserve features an air-conditioned lab-style classroom with a capacity of 24 people, a small visitor's center, a large pavilion with a capacity of 50 people, a kayak launch, a fishing dock, and public restrooms.

Rye Preserve

Experience a slice of old Florida at the Rye Preserve. This 530-acre property is located just northwest of the Lake Manatee Dam at [905 Rye Wilderness Trail, Parrish, FL 34219](#). Rye Preserve's trail system leads visitors through sand pine and oak scrub, oak hammock, and river floodplain habitats. Within the preserve, visitors can view the historic Rye Family Cemetery. Rye Preserve features a playground, a pavilion with a capacity of 64 people, public restrooms, a tent camping area, the Rye Nature Center, an archery range, a kayak launch, and access to the Manatee River.

Other Locations

To learn about our other Manatee County Preserves, please visit our website at:

https://www.mymanatee.org/departments/natural_resources/preserves

Some programs can be facilitated at alternative locations. If you have a particular preserve in mind that you would like to visit, please let us know and we will advise you on what activities and opportunities are available there. Additional fees may apply.

Program Policies

Chaperones

All school, organization, and camp groups are required to meet our minimum chaperone requirement.

Pre-K programs, ages 3 to 5 - 1 chaperone for every 5 students.

K-12 programs, ages 6 to 17 - 1 chaperone for every 10 students.

Teachers or counselors are considered chaperones. Chaperones are expected to stay with their group for the entirety of their field trip and should be actively involved in activities with the students. Chaperones are expected to assist staff in moving students between activities in a calm and organized manner and to supervise students in all areas of the preserve. Please ensure your group is respectful to others who are visiting the preserve, as well as to our displays and equipment. We thank our visiting teachers and chaperones for their assistance and adherence to these guidelines.



A chaperone assists students pulling a seine net to collect marine creatures.

Price Breakdown

Program prices are based on instructor time and materials for the maximum capacity of students of each program. Pricing does not change for groups with less than the maximum capacity of the program. Groups exceeding the maximum capacity of a program will need Add Ons and additional staff which may incur an additional cost. The cost of outdoor programs is a base cost with no modifications applied. The base price does not include the cost of the pavilion rental needed. Outdoor programs can be modified to fit your group. Bio Labs student capacity cannot be modified.

Outdoor Programs

Participants in our Outdoor Programs explore scientific and natural concepts through games, crafts, and activities. Outdoor Programs provide opportunities to be active, explore nature, and develop new skills. Outdoor programs cater to students of varying ages.

One Hour Programs

Archery

Base Cost: \$75

Age Range: 6+, 2nd to 12th
Capacity: 10 Students
Discipline: Outdoor Skills
Duration: 1 Hour
Location: Rye Preserve

Set your sights on the exciting outdoor activity of archery! Our instructors will provide your group with basic range safety, familiarization with archery equipment, and instruction in shooting techniques that create successful archers. All archery equipment is provided for the duration of the program.

ecosystems through a game and encounter. *This can also be an Add On activity.*

Educational Standards: SC.1.L.17.1, SC.2.L.16.1, SC.2.L.17.1, SC.3.L.17.2, SC.4.L.16.3, SC.4.L.17.4, SC.5.L.17.1



Participants aim for a bullseye during an archery program at Rye Preserve.

Tortoise Encounter

Base Cost: \$75

Age Range: 7-10, 1st to 5th grade
Capacity: 30 students
Discipline: Biology
Duration: 1 Hour
Location: Robison Preserve

Gopher tortoises are one of Florida's most important keystone species! These special reptiles share their burrow with over 350 other creatures. Many animals seek refuge in a tortoise burrow during a wildfire or inclement weather. In this program, students will meet a real gopher tortoise named Genbu and learn about the gopher tortoise's important role in Florida's upland

Guided Nature Walk

Base Cost: \$50

Age Range: All ages
Capacity: 30 students
Discipline: Biology
Duration: 1 Hour
Location: Any location

Explore the trails to learn about the natural and cultural history of the preserve while looking for native wildlife with a naturalist guide. Please let your guide know if you'd like to learn more about a specific topic! *This can also be an Add On activity.*

Educational Standards: SC.1.L.17.1, SC.2.N.1.3, SC.2.L.17.1, SC.3.L.17.2, SC.4.L.17.4, SC.4.N.1.1, SC.5.L.17.1



Participants find the orienteering marker using their map.

Orienteering

Base Cost: \$75

Age Range: 6+, 2nd to 12th

Capacity: 30 students

Discipline: Outdoor Skills

Duration: 1 Hour

Location: Robinson, Emerson, Rye

Put your world into perspective and navigate the preserve using a map! Orienteering is a competitive sport that requires participants to navigate through a series of checkpoints the fastest while using a map. Participants will learn how to read a map and then race to complete a 30-minute course. This program can be expanded to accommodate a bigger orienteering course up to 2 hours for an additional fee.

Two Hour Programs

*Programs with an asterisk indicate they qualify for Splash Grant. For more information visit:
<https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/residents/education/splash-school-grants/approved-field-studies-programs>

The cost of outdoor programs is a base cost with no modifications applied. The base price does not include the cost of the pavilion rental needed. Pavilion can be used during and after fieldtrip.

CSI: Critter Scene Investigations

Base Cost: \$125

Age Range: 6-17, 1st to 12th Grade
Capacity: 30 students
Discipline: Life Sciences
Duration: 2 Hour
Location: Robinson, Emerson, Rye

Animals can be followed and studied, even if they are not readily seen! In this program, students will use their senses to find clues left behind by wildlife. Students will go on a nature walk and look for evidence of animal activity, identify animal sounds, play games including the Case of the Tricky Tracks and the Case of the Scent-sational Smells, and manipulate and observe animal skull, scat, and pelt replicas.

Educational Standards: SC.K.N.1.2, SC.K.L.14, SC.1.L.14.1, SC.1.N.1.2, SC.3.L.15.1, SC.4.L.17.2, SC.6.L.15.1

Estuary Exploration*

Base Cost: \$100

Age Range: All Ages
Capacity: 30 students
Discipline: Life Sciences
Duration: 2 Hour
Location: Robinson, Emerson

Estuaries are a unique habitat where freshwater and saltwater meet. Estuaries act as a nursery for plants and animals that live at the edge of saltwater. These plants and animals depend on one another to exist! In this program, students will learn about the essential components of an estuary habitat and estuarine food web, play the Marsh Munchers game, and get in the water with dip nets to view marine fauna up close.

Educational Standards:

Fabulous Fossils

Base Cost: \$100

Age Range: All Ages
Capacity: 30 students
Discipline: Life Sciences
Duration: 2 Hour
Location: Robinson, Emerson, Rye

Fossils are the preserved remains of prehistoric creatures such as giant ground sloths, ancient horses, and elephant-like gomphotheres that once roamed the Florida peninsula. Through hands-on activities, students will learn about the geological history of Florida and how different kinds of fossils are created. Students will examine real fossils excavated locally to learn about the fascinating animals that once lived here.

Educational Standards: SC.7.L.15.1, SC.912.L.15.1

Fishing

Base Cost: \$125

Age Range: 6+
Capacity: 20 students
Discipline: Outdoor Skills
Duration: 2 Hour
Location: Emerson Point Preserve

Cast your line into the water and catch the big one! Our instructors will provide your group with basic fishing safety, familiarization with fishing equipment, and instruction in fishing techniques to improve your chances of catching a fish.

Florida's First People

Base Cost: \$100

Age Range: 6+
Capacity: 30 students
Discipline: History
Duration: 2 Hour
Location: Emerson Point Preserve, Rye*

People have lived and worked along the shores of the Manatee River for thousands of years. Long before Columbus sailed, an ancient civilization existed at Emerson Point. These early Floridians lived along the water's edge and relied on the land to survive. In this program, students will learn about what life was like for Florida's first people through examination and use of replica tools, hands-on activities, and a guided nature walk. *This

program can be done at Rye Preserve but there will be a shift to also explain the pioneer history of the area and tour the Rye Nature Center.

Educational Standards:

Kayaking

Base Cost: \$100

Age Range: 10+
Capacity: 12 Participants, including chaperones
Discipline: Outdoor Skills
Duration: 2 Hour
Location: Robinson Preserve

Explore the mangrove shorelines and salt marsh islands of Robinson Preserve via kayak! Our instructors will provide your group with basic kayaking safety and familiarization with paddling equipment so you can explore and observe native wildlife from the water.

Water Safari*

Base Cost: \$100

Age Range: 10+, 6th to 12th Grade

Capacity: 30 students

Discipline: Life Sciences

Duration: 2 Hour

Location: Rye Preserve

Aquatic macroinvertebrates, or invertebrates that can be seen with the naked eye, can tell us a lot about the quality of the water where they are found! In this program, students will wade in a pond or river and use dip nets to collect small aquatic creatures. Students will identify and sort the organisms, make observations of the aquatic habitat, and use scientific methodology to assess

the overall water quality of the area.

Educational Standards: SC.6.N.1.4, SC.7.L.17.3, SC.7.N.1.6, SC.8.N.1.6, SC.8.N.4.1, SC.912.17.2, SC.912.L.17.13

Watershed Wonders*

Base Cost: \$100

Age Range: 10+, 6th to 12th Grade

Capacity: 30 students

Discipline: Life Sciences

Duration: 2 Hour

Location: Robinson Preserve Expansion

Land and water are connected. Our actions in one location have effects on the other. In this program, students will recreate and observe the effects of pollution, weather, and human activities on aquatic habitats by using a miniature model of the Manatee River watershed. Students will walk through the Robinson Preserve Expansion to observe how elevation affects the flow of water and evaluate how different land uses can impact aquatic habitats.

Students will play the How Long Until It's Gone game to learn about the decomposition rates of various types of marine debris.

Educational Standards:

Add Ons

These activities will add time to your fieldtrip. They can make great supplementary rotation stations for fieldtrips with large groups. Additional fees may apply if more staff is required.

Birds of a Feather

Additional Cost: \$25

Duration: 1 Hour

Birds are some of the easiest animals to observe in the wild. Students will learn how to use binoculars to identify birds and go on a bird behavior scavenger hunt to observe birds in their natural habitat. Students will discuss how human actions can impact birds both positively and negatively.

Fill the Bill

Additional Cost: \$25

Duration: 30 minutes

In this game, students will discover that bird beaks are adapted for specific types of food. Students will attempt to catch or pick up different prey items using a variety of tools to simulate different bird beak shapes and feeding strategies. Education Standard: SC.5.L.17.1

The Fine Art of Nesting

Additional Cost: \$25

Duration: 30 minutes

Students will learn why birds build nests and the variety of nest designs found in nature. Students will collect natural materials and practice building their own nests to discover the complexity of birds' nest-building abilities.

That's Scat!

Additional Cost: \$50

Duration: 30 min

Scat are animal droppings. Students will learn the definition by learning the Scat Rap! After learning about scat, students will use playdough and beads to model the scat of animals with diverse diets, from herbivores to carnivores.

Tortoise Burrow Exploration

Additional Cost: \$50

Duration: 30 minutes

In this activity, students will have the opportunity to crawl through a human-size burrow replica and play with a variety of animal puppets that live in harmony with the gopher tortoise.



Student experiments with bird beaks in Fill the Bill.

Watershed Model

Additional Cost: \$25

Duration: 30 minutes

Students will observe the effects of pollution, weather, and human activities on marine habitats by using a miniature model of the Manatee River watershed.

Water Quality Testing

Additional Cost: \$50

Duration: 30 minutes

Students will use a water quality testing kit to take water samples and measure salinity, nitrates, phosphates, biochemical oxygen demand, and temperature.



Student explores the gopher tortoise burrow.

Volunteer Service-Learning Activity

Base Cost: FREE

Location: Any Location

Age Range: All Ages

Capacity: 30 Students

Duration: 1 hour

Volunteer opportunities include shoreline clean-ups, exotic plant removal, trail maintenance, native plantings, and more! Potential volunteer activities are determined based on the current needs at each preserve, student ages, abilities, and how much time is available.



Bio Labs

Homeschool Bio Lab is an advanced course where we explore higher scientific concepts and the scientific method through dissections, chemistry, and biology experiments. Programs provide opportunities to use critical thinking skills, work independently and create lab reports. The maximum capacity for bio lab programs is 20 students, and the minimum to host a program is 5 students. Students must be at least 10 years of age or older to participate in Bio Lab programs. Bio Lab is only held at the Nature Classroom at Emerson Point Preserve in Palmetto, Florida. Students are expected to read and write at a 6th grade level.

Bustling Bats

Cost: \$200

Age Range: 10+, 6th to 12th Grade

Capacity: 20 students

Discipline: Biology, Anatomy, Mammalogy

Duration: 2 Hour

Learn all about the only truly flying mammal – bats! Complete a synthetic dissection of a bat and explore the science behind echolocation and soundwaves as we learn all the mysteries bats must share!

Educational Standards:

Biobots!

Cost: \$200

Age Range: 10+, 6th to 12th Grade

Capacity: 20 students

Discipline: Engineering, Computer Science

Duration: 2 Hours

Robots help scientists study nature, reaching depths never explored. Imagine how far into space or deep into the ocean robots can reach! Work with your lab partner to code a robot using colors and explore how robots study the natural world.

Educational Standards: SC.4.N.1.7, SC.4.N.3.1, SC.8.N.1.6, SC.8.E.5.10

Bioindicators

Cost: \$250

Age Range: 10+, 6th to 12th Grade

Capacity: 20 students

Discipline: Life Science, Biology, Anatomy

Duration: 2 Hours

A bioindicator is a living organism that gives us an idea of the health of an ecosystem. In this hands-on program, students will learn how certain organisms, like frogs, can provide valuable insights into the health of our environment. Through a guided frog dissection, they'll explore anatomy, ecology, and the vital role these amphibians play in our ecosystems.

Educational Standards:

Entomology

Cost: \$200

Age Range: 10+, 6th to 12th Grade

Capacity: 20 students

Discipline: Life Science, Biology, Anatomy

Duration: 2 Hours

Step into the role of an entomologist! Students will learn how to carefully preserve insects through the art of bug pinning. We'll discuss proper collection techniques, specimen handling, species identification, and the importance of ethical practices. Once pinned, participants will explore methods for identifying insects using field guides and classification keys, gaining a deeper understanding of insect anatomy and diversity.

Educational Standards:



Students explore exothermic reactions.

Age Range: 10+, 6th to 12th Grade

Capacity: 20 students

Discipline: Life Science, Marine Biology, Anatomy

Marine Biology

Cost: \$200

Think like a Marine Biologist as we dissect a squid, test the water quality of the area, and learn about the importance of seagrass in an estuary habitat.

Educational Standards: SC.912.L.17.2

Owl Pellet Dissection

Cost: \$200

Age Range: 10+, 6th to 12th Grade

Capacity: 20 students

Discipline: Life Science, Biology, Anatomy

Duration: 2 Hours

One of nature's most adapted predators is the owl! Explore the adaptations of owls as we dissect an owl pellet to learn what and how an owl eats.

Educational Standards:

Rocket Science

Cost: \$200

Age Range: 10+, 6th to 12th Grade

Capacity: 20 students

Discipline: Physics, Engineering

Duration: 2 Hours

Grab your safety glasses and come explore the science behind rockets! Build a rocket and take flight as we discover physics and propulsion.

Educational Standards:

Seeing Double

Cost: \$200

Age Range: 10+, 6th to 12th Grade

Capacity: 20 students

Discipline: Life Science, Biology, Anatomy

Duration: 2 Hours

If you are reading this, your eyes are hard at work. Eyes grant us the sense of sight! Experiment with vision and depth perception as we craft a scope. Discuss the anatomy of an eye and dissect a cow eye with your lab partner.

Educational Standards:

Veterinary Medicine

Cost: \$250

Age Range: 10+, 6th to 12th Grade

Capacity: 20 students

Discipline: Life Science, Biology

Duration: 2 Hours

Step into the shoes of a veterinarian as we uncover the mystery of a local sick animal, learn how to hear a heartbeat, and even how to suture a wound.

Educational Standards: SC.3.N.1.7, SC.4.N.1.3, SC.5.L.15.1, SC.7.N.1.6, SC.8.N.1.6



Student dissects a squid



Student explores a sample under a microscope

