



School Field Trip Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I bring my class to the Marine Science Center?

The Marine Science Center offers field trip options that will provide your class with an exciting educational adventure. Observing sea turtles and seabirds in rehabilitation, exploring the Exhibit Gallery, and educational beach activities are unique and fun ways to educate all ages about the fragile ecosystems in Volusia County.

What is the field trip fee at the Marine Science Center?

Field trip fees depend on the program chosen. (Please see the MSC Program Guide for specific pricing) Teachers are free, and chaperones are \$5.00 regardless of the program selected. Upon arrival at the Marine Science Center, payment should be made. Please make checks payable to the County of Volusia Marine Science Center. All programs are tax exempt.

When are school field trips offered?

School field trips are offered during the school year, Tuesday through Friday. Field trips may start as early as 9:30 am. Start and finish times can be modified, itineraries will be arranged with the teachers.

How do I book a field trip to the Marine Science Center?

- 1. Look at the Field Trip Calendar on the webpage and choose 2 dates that are available.*
- 2. Read through the Field Trip Activities and choose the best option for your group.*
- 3. Complete the fillable field trip form from the webpage using choices from #'s 1 & 2 above. Save this document as your school name and email it to Shell Webster, Education Coordinator, at mscedu@volusia.org. You will be contacted by email to finalize a date, program itinerary and logistics of your field trip. If choosing the gift shop option, please go over the guide to Gift Shop Etiquette with your teachers and chaperons.*

What do we do about lunch?

The Marine Science Center does not provide lunches. Individuals attending programs must bring their lunch. Weather permitting, lunch will be eaten in the Kay and Ayres Davies Lighthouse Park, 4931 S Peninsula Dr. (located between the Marine Science Center and the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse), this location is usually chosen for the eco walk program due to its location. The side deck at the MSC is available if there is inclement weather.

What happens if it rains?

Programs will be modified if inclement weather occurs and be replaced with programs inside the Marine Science Center.

How many students can the Marine Science Center accommodate for field trips?

The class size will vary depending on which field trip program is chosen. See the Field Trip Activities for the maximum allowable number of students for each program.

Where is the Marine Science Center located?

The Marine Science Center is located at 100 Lighthouse Drive, Ponce Inlet, FL. 32127. From the Dunlawton Bridge, drive south on South Atlantic Avenue, A1A. Turn right onto Lighthouse Drive, just before Lighthouse Point Park. The main entry for the Marine Science Center is located on the right side of Lighthouse Drive. Please allow plenty of drive time as the speed limits range from 35 mph down to 10 mph for much of the drive on A1A.

Where do the students get dropped off?

If arriving by bus, please stop the bus on the north (right) side of Lighthouse Drive directly in front of the Marine Science Center entrance sign. Students will be escorted up the main sidewalk to the front entrance of the Marine Science Center. If arriving by separate cars, please park in the main parking lot to the right on Lighthouse Drive.

Where do we park?

There will be different parking locations for each group depending on which program is chosen and which type of transportation you are coming in. (Volusia County Bus, Other Bus, cars or vans). Please refer to the parking map and once you book your field trip date the itinerary will instruct your group where to park.

When else is the bus needed during the school field trips?

The bus must be available to take students to and from the Marine Science Center and Lighthouse Point Park during any field trip with beach activities. Upon arrival, the driver will get specific instructions on your program schedule.

Is there a gift shop at the Marine Science Center?

There is a wonderful gift shop at the Marine Science Center that features unique marine-themed gifts and educational materials at affordable prices. Everything from informative books to beautiful jewelry can be purchased during a scheduled time at the gift shop. Proceeds help pay for the operation of the facility and care for the animals. Please make sure to let the Education Coordinator know that you would like gift shop time and make sure the children have their money with them when they are dropped off. Please refer to the Gift Shop Etiquette Guide.

How should I prepare my students for a day at the Marine Science Center?

If you choose an outside field trip, make sure they are ready for outdoor activities. They should dress appropriately; wear sunscreen, and a hat. For some field trips, close-toed shoes and bathing suits are necessary. Even though water fountains are available, students are encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle.