

# Field Trip Programs for Schools & Groups



100 Lighthouse Drive  
Ponce Inlet, Florida 32127  
386-304-5545

Email [MSCEDU@volusia.org](mailto:MSCEDU@volusia.org)  
to schedule field trips

MSC Education Department  
Shell Webster, Education Coordinator  
100 Lighthouse Dr. Ponce Inlet, FL 32127  
mscedu@volusia.org

Dear Teacher / Group Leader,

Thank you for your interest in visiting the Marine Science Center (MSC). Our goal is to provide an innovative learning experience where visitors can discover, enjoy and appreciate the many wonders that embody the world of marine science in Volusia County.

By planning a field trip to the MSC, you are giving your students an opportunity to learn about and ultimately protect their environment. We will do everything we can to facilitate this experience.

**Please note that the policies for “MSC Field Trip Programs for Schools and Groups” was updated August 2017. All of the changes are reflected in this packet, including two major changes- 1) group sizes have been limited, and (2) the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards are incorporated into the programs.**

Field trip programs are **limited to 60 students**, except for the Marine Cephalopod Encounter/Squid Dissection and Plankton/Water Quality Lab programs, which are limited to 36 students. The itinerary for your field trip will be dependent upon program choice, size of group and age of participants.

The MSC opens to the public at 10 a.m. but field trips may be scheduled earlier if needed.

Please email Shell Webster, the education coordinator, at [MSCEDU@volusia.org](mailto:MSCEDU@volusia.org) with two date choices for your field trip. She will respond with an available date and help you choose a program suitable for your students and will send you the paperwork and an itinerary.

All people participating in the trip must sign the **Photo and Liability Release** form and bring it with you on your field trip date (this includes teachers, chaperones and students). Please use the checklist for completing paperwork to insure all information is complete.

Please note that if your group is participating in an activity in Lighthouse Point Park (near the jetty), busses are able to obtain the fee waiver for parking but all other vehicles need to pay the \$10.00 daily fee. Please inform us if you are visiting in vehicles other than a bus so we can discuss alternative parking options with you.

The MSC accepts cash, checks, money orders, and credit/debit cards and can be prepaid or paid at time of admission.

The following pages will provide information on the different program options available for your field trip. Please print off the checklist to ensure all paperwork has been completed. If you have any questions please feel free to call or email the education department:

**Shell Webster**

Education Coordinator, Marine Science Center  
Phone: 386-304-5529  
Fax: 386-304-5548  
Email: [MSCEDU@volusia.org](mailto:MSCEDU@volusia.org)

## Checklist for Teachers and/or Group Leaders

- |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Date Selection</b>    | Email the MSC Education department at <a href="mailto:MSCEDU@volusia.org">MSCEDU@volusia.org</a> with 2 possible dates for your field trip. The education coordinator will respond with the dates that are available. From the dates provided, select the one your group prefers and inform the education coordinator of your choice.                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Program Selection</b> | Select the program(s) for your field trip with the guidance of the education coordinator. Arrival/departure times, size of group, and age of students should all be taken into account when selecting a program. The Eco-Walk program can be added to any program for a small fee. You can also add gift shop time to any program at no cost.                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Summary</b>           | A field trip summary sheet, with the itinerary of your field trip and all associated costs, will be emailed to you once you have selected a date and program(s).   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Bus/Parking</b>       | Information for the bus driver and parking instructions for teachers/chaperones that are driving personal vehicles will be emailed to you once you have selected a date and program(s).  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Release Forms</b>     | Print and hand out the Photo and Liability form. We must have a signed form for all <b>students, teachers and chaperones</b> attending the field trip. <b>Bring these with you the day of the field trip and give to Greeter.</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Additional Forms</b>  | There may be additional forms that need your input. The education coordinator will contact you if these are needed.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Proper Attire</b>     | All students, teachers and chaperones taking part in the Estuary program or the Plankton Lab program <b>must have the proper attire for the day or they will not be able to participate.</b> The proper attire is outlined in the program description. A dry set of clothes is optional but closed-toed shoes are mandatory for participation in these programs. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>On Field Trip Day</b> | Call the Marine Science Center when you are crossing the Dunlawton Bridge to give us notification of your arrival. We will be waiting to help the students off the bus when you arrive. Call the education coordinator at 386-304-5529 or the MSC Main number at 386-304-5545.   |

## Marine Science Center Program Guide

#	Program Name	Program Description	Time	Cost/ Student	Cost Adult/ Chaperon	Age Group	Max Group Size
1	Marine Science Center Exhibit Tour	Students will be led through a guided tour of the Marine Science Center focusing on Volusia County's ecosystems and MSC rehabilitation efforts.	2 Hours	\$4	\$5	K-12	60
2	Eco Walk	Students will be led on a guided exploration of the beach, dune, and inlet ecosystems. The tour will focus on observing the components of these ecosystems and the vital part each plays in the protection of our coastline.	45 Minutes	\$1	N/A	K-12	60
3	Raptors Live	Students will meet a live raptor and learn how they have adapted to hunt prey and survive in the wild. Students will then participate in an owl pellet dissection lab.	2 Hours	\$6	\$5	3-12	60
4	Marine Cephalopod Encounter/Squid Dissection	This program will explore Cephalopods through a squid dissection, discussion of Cephalopods in the wild, and a visit to the Octopus Exhibit.	2 Hours	\$6	\$5	6-12	36
5	Estuary Program	Students will learn about estuaries through a guided ecological tour and then participate in a hands-on seine netting and animal identification lab.	3 Hours	\$10	\$5	6-12	60
6	Plankton/Water Quality Lab	Students will participate in hands-on labs that collect plankton, sample with a seine net, and conduct water quality tests. Afterwards, discussions will tie the information together.	3 Hours	\$10	\$5	4-12	36

# Marine Science Center Exhibit Tour



Students will be broken up into manageable groups and led through a guided tour of the exhibits, the sea turtle hospital and sea bird sanctuary. A tour through the exhibits will focus on the ecosystems of Volusia County with educational material concentrating on Next Generation Standards associated with grade levels. Students will get a chance to have an interactive hands-on experience at the stingray and invertebrate touch pools. A tour through the sea turtle rehabilitation hospital and sea bird sanctuary will be centered on protecting and conserving the environment and the organisms within it.

- **Time: 2 Hours**
- **Grades: K-12**
- **Cost per Student: \$4**
- **Cost per Adult/Chaperone: \$5**
- **Maximum Group Size: 60**

# Eco Walk



Students will be led on a guided exploration of the beach, dune, and inlet ecosystems. The tour will focus on observing the components of these ecosystems and the vital part that each plays in the protection of our coastline. The students will also learn about the role that the inlet plays in the creation of the estuarine systems of the Halifax River and Indian River Lagoon. This program can be added onto any one of our educational programs. Students can also eat lunch at one of the pavilions overlooking the water.

- **Time: 45 minutes (not including lunch)**
- **Grades: K-12**
- **Cost per Student: \$1**
- **Cost per Adult/Chaperone: N/A**
- **Maximum Group Size: 60**

# Raptors Live



Students will meet a live raptor and learn about the ways they have adapted to hunting prey and surviving in their natural habitat. Students will also learn how habitat loss has affected raptor populations. The students will then participate in an owl pellet lab where they will dissect an actual owl pellet and see if they have all the bones to reconstruct the skeleton of the owl's prey. The group will also be able to explore the MSC gallery and touch the stingrays.

- **Time: 2 Hours**
- **Grades: 3-12**
- **Cost per Student: \$6**
- **Cost per Adult/Chaperone: \$5**
- **Maximum Group Size: 60**

# Marine Cephalopod Encounter/Squid Dissection



This program will explore Cephalopods through a squid dissection, discussion of Cephalopods in the wild, shared characteristics with other Mollusks, and a visit to the Octopus Exhibit. The program is followed by free time to explore the other exhibits of the Marine Science Center.

- **Time: 2 Hours**
- **Grades 6-12**
- **Cost per Student: \$6**
- **Cost per Adult /Chaperone: \$5**
- **Maximum Group Size: 36**

# Estuary Program

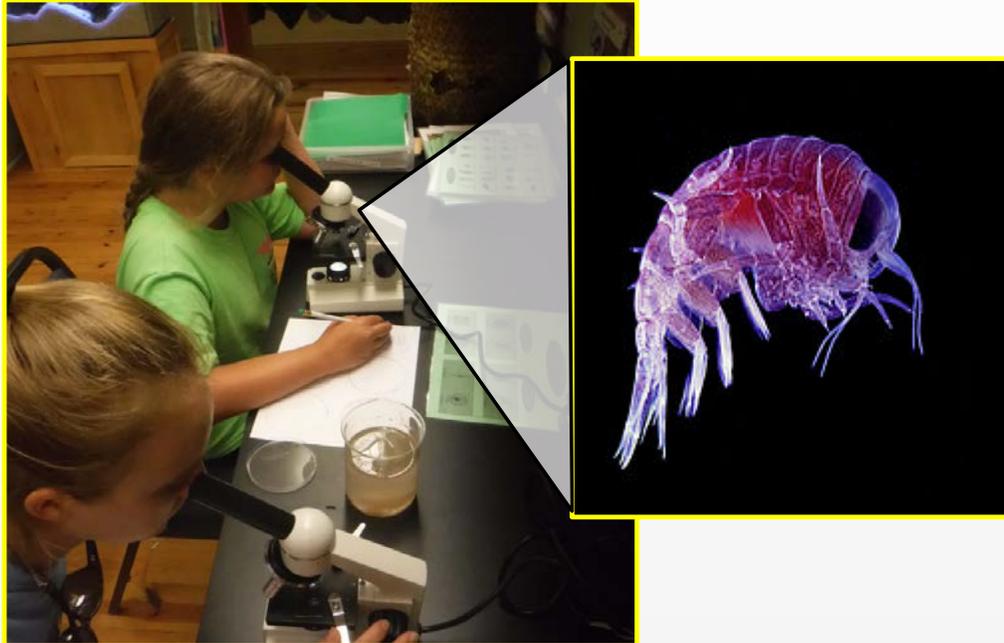


Students will learn about estuaries including their importance, the species that live there, and the human impacts that affect it through a guided ecological tour. Students will participate in a hands-on seining and animal identification lab at a nearby estuary in Lighthouse Point Park. Students can then change and eat lunch at a pavilion looking over the Inlet. After lunch, students can visit the Marine Science Center to explore the exhibits and touch the stingrays. If your group would like to add a guided tour of the MSC, there will be an additional charge of \$4.00 per student.

- **Time: 3 Hours**
- **Grades 6-12**
- **Cost per Student: \$10**
- **Cost per Adult/Chaperone: \$5**
- **Maximum Group Size: 60**

\* Participants must wear closed-toed shoes and be dressed to get wet. Swim suits are recommended under clothes, as well as extra set of dry clothes. Please have students, chaperones, and/or teachers ready for the program before they arrive. Students, chaperones, and teachers will not be allowed to go into the water without proper shoes.

# Plankton/Water Quality Lab



The program begins with an ecological walk to the sampling site where students will learn about the importance of estuaries and the food chain. Students will then participate in hands-on labs collecting plankton, seine netting, and testing estuary water quality. Students can then change and eat lunch at a pavilion looking over the Inlet. After lunch, students can visit the Marine Science Center to explore the exhibits and touch the stingrays. If your group would like to add a guided tour of the MSC, there will be an additional charge of \$4.00 per student.

- **Time: 3 Hours**
- **Grades 4-12**
- **Cost per Student: \$10**
- **Cost per Adult/Chaperone: \$5**
- **Maximum Group Size: 36**

\* Participants must wear closed-toed shoes and be dressed to get wet. Swim suits are recommended under clothes, as well as extra set of dry clothes. Please have students, chaperones, and/or teachers ready for the program before they arrive. Students, chaperones, and teachers will not be allowed to go into the water without proper shoes.

## Bus Driver Directions to Marine Science Center Parking Lot

