



Educational Programs Grades 3-5

Mission: To foster a sense of environmental stewardship for the Loxahatchee River's diverse watershed with quality programs, educational exhibits and meaningful events.

Aim: The River Center's educational programs are designed to give students and teachers the opportunity to learn about the Loxahatchee River ecosystem, The Loxahatchee River District (wastewater management), south Florida habitats, and the surrounding communities.

Programs are designed to complement your curriculum. Please select the topic that is most appropriate for your class (Water, Estuaries, or Adaptations) and select a topic option.

All programs will include a tour of the River Center and a touch tank demonstration.

Field Trip Topic I Water

Students will become water scientists investigating the chemistry and physical characteristics of water. Students will be able to investigate the different states of water, properties of water, the water cycle, and the quality of our water in the Loxahatchee River. Students will identify some of the ways we use water on a daily basis and how we can conserve this valuable resource. Students will also be able to answer questions like: "Where do we get our water?," "How do we use our water?," "Where does water go after we have used it?"

Possible Field Trip Itinerary:

Select one Option:

3rd Grade

Option 1:

- A. Properties of water lab
- B. Oyster filtration lab
- C. Water cycle lesson/craft

5th Grade

Option 1:

- A. Water table lab
- B. Ground water demo
- C. Strobe light activity

3rd or 5th grade

Option 2:

- A. How much of Earth's water is "Safe" for us to drink? Craft/demo
- B. Water quality lab
 - 3rd Grade: Salinity, Water clarity, Temperature, Magnification (microscopic substances in water)
 - 5th Grade: Above measurements plus pH, dissolved oxygen, Nitrates, Phosphates

Field Trip Topic II

Estuaries: Oyster and Mangrove

Students will work as ecologists observing living organisms doing their part to maintain the ecosystem. Students will observe both living and non-living parts of an ecosystem and how they interact with one another. Students will be able to answer "Is it ok if the shell fish die off?," "How does energy travel through the food chain?," "What types of organisms call the oyster estuary home?," "How do baby fish survive with the adult fish hunting them?"

Possible Field Trip Itinerary:

3rd or 5th Grade- Select any two:

- A. Predator/Prey game
- B. Rockshake lab
- C. Food web
- D. Oyster shell examination

Field Trip Topic III

Adaptation Observations

Students will work as biologists observing living organisms in their habitat. Students will learn about the adaptations of some of our aquatic organisms. Students will look at both the advantages and disadvantages in the anatomy of different organisms. Students will also have the opportunity to do a mock sampling just like a marine biologist!

Students will be able to answer "Where does a fish with a pointed beak tend to feed as opposed to a fish with a blunt beak?," "For what type of swimming is a square tailfin used?," "How do scientists count the number of fish on an entire reef?"

Possible Field Trip Itinerary:

Select one option:

3rd Grade

Option 1:

- A. Fish Lips
- B. Rock shake lab comparison

Option 2:

- A. Shell lab
- B. Function of sea grasses/ Sea grass anatomy

5th Grade

Option 1:

- A. Fish Morphology Lab
- B. Quadrsect population count

Option 2:

- A. Function/anatomy of mangrove
- B. Habitat biodiversity

Programs and activities can be customized to accomodate your students. Please speak with one of our Education Professionals to create a memorable "River Experience" for your students.

Standards

We have based our program on the Science Benchmarks and Grade Level Expectations outline on the Palm Beach County School Districts website:

http://www.palmbeach.k12.fl.us/K12CurriculumAdultCommunityEducation/ScienceK5Elem/3-5_Benchmarks_and_GLE_revised_Aug_2007_.pdf

*Standards for each lesson are available upon request.



A Program of Loxahatchee River District

River Center

805 North U.S. Highway One
Jupiter, Florida 33477

**RIVER CENTER Field Trip Program
REGISTRATION FORM**

PLEASE FILL OUT ONE FORM FOR EACH CLASS YOU WISH TO ATTEND AND EMAIL TO:
Education@loxahatcheeriver.org
OR FAX TO: 561-743-6314

CONTACT INFORMATION:

COORDINATING TEACHER NAME: _____

SCHOOL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ BEST TIME TO REACH YOU: _____

ALT PHONE: _____ BEST TIME TO REACH YOU: _____

EMAIL: _____ FAX: _____

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

NUMBER OF STUDENTS _____ GRADE LEVEL _____

1ST CHOICE DATE(S) _____ 2ND CHOICE DATE(S) _____

PROGRAM TOPIC: _____

ITINERARY SELECTION: _____

SPECIAL NOTES: _____

(Do any of your students have any physical limitations or disabilities?)

Classes are booked on a first come, first served basis. You will receive a confirmation form once your program has been scheduled. You will also receive a list of items that students should bring or wear. Classes should arrive by 10 a.m. and will depart around 1 p.m. Lunch break will be from 12:30 – 1 p.m. Students/ schools must provide their own lunches.

Program & Scheduling contact information:

JOCELYN O'NEILL
Education Program Coordinator
Loxahatchee River Center
561-743-7123
Jocelyn@loxahatcheeriver.org

KRISTEN RUEST
Environmental Educator
Loxahatchee River Center
561-743-7123
Kristen@loxahatcheeriver.org

