



2025/2026 Florida Marine Animals Field Course | High School w/ Learn Wild

Biblically-Based

1 | Crustaceans

Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2025; 12:00 - 4:30 PM

Time adjusted to reflect tide schedule.

@Mizell-Johnson State Park, Dania Beach

This event includes a scientific study of marine life in Whiskey Creek as permitted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Data collected during the assessment activities will be compiled and submitted to the FDEP as a requirement of Saltwater Studies' permit.

2 | Dolphins

Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025; 12:00 - 4:30 PM

Time adjusted to reflect tide schedule.

@Peanut Island Park, Riviera Beach

This event includes a snorkel in the shallow waters of Peanut Island where we will view a variety of local marine life.*

3 | Corals

Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025; 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

@Boynton Beach Inlet Park, Boynton Beach

This event includes learning how to conduct a qualitative and quantitative assessment of marine life, techniques commonly employed by marine biologists in studying coral reef environments. Students will be provided with transect lines, quadrats and field guides to use in completing their assessment.

4 | Bony Fish

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2025; 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

@Boynton Beach Inlet Park, Boynton Beach

This event includes a dissection where students will dissect and compare the anatomy of a dogfish shark, bony fish, and sea star (based on availability of specimens).

5 | Sharks

Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026; 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

@ Frost Museum, Miami

This event includes a tour of the Frost Museum to view their shark aquarium. Students will complete various behavior observation exercises focusing on anatomy and behavior that are used by marine biologists.

6 | Echinoderms

Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026; 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

@Dubois Park, Jupiter

This event includes a wading tour in the shallow waters of the mangrove area within Dubois Park, an area where sea stars and sea urchins are frequently spotted. Students will participate in a biological survey where they will record the species and location of marine life spotted.

7 | Gastropods & Bivalves

Wednesday, Mar. 4, 2026; 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

@Coral Cove Park, Tequesta

This event includes a beach walk at low tide to look for various species of seashells. Students will then use field guides to identify local South Florida gastropod and bivalve species.

8 | Cephalopods

Wednesday, Apr. 22, 2026; 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

@Phil Foster Park, Riviera Beach

This event includes a snorkel in a Marine Preserve at Phil Foster Park, Riviera Beach.* Cephalopods commonly spotted in the area include both the longarm octopus and Caribbean reef squid.

**Snorkeling activities are based on tide and weather conditions. Conditions will be evaluated the week of the proposed activity to confirm that the class may proceed as planned. All students will be required to wear a snorkel vest provided by Saltwater Studies during snorkeling events.*

- Winter Break -

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Shark Tagging with Nova Southeastern University and the Guy Harvey Research Institute

Monday, April 27, 2026 | 7:15 AM – 4:30 PM

@Nova Southeastern University, Oceanographic Center, Dania Beach

Students will have the opportunity to participate in a full-day shark tagging expedition in partnership with Nova Southeastern University and the Guy Harvey Research Institute. This excursion is truly a "hands-on" experience. Students will have the opportunity to participate in activities such as prepping the rigging, setting the lines, reeling in the sharks, and even placing the tag onto the shark. Guy Harvey Research members will teach you how to do each task, and you can choose which tasks you would prefer. You will have opportunities to see, touch, and work with the sharks up close.

This excursion is open to registered students and their family members. The boat can accommodate a maximum of thirty (30) people. Priority is provided to registered students. The remaining spaces are awarded once interest level is determined. If spaces remain after all students and their families have submitted payment, the additional spaces will be offered on a first come, first served basis to anyone interested so that we can fill the boat and avoid having to increase the per person cost.

Cost: TBD

Wild Dolphin Viewing & Shelling Tour

Tentative Date: May 2026

@Treasure Seekers Shell Tours, Goodland, Marco Island
Students will enjoy a 4-hour boat ride and shelling tour with Treasure Seekers Shell Tours in the Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge. While it is well-known for its incredible shelling, this area is also home to a pod of resident dolphins and a variety of other marine life including manatees, sea turtles and spotted eagle rays. Students will complete an assessment of dolphin behavior during the boat ride and then search for seashells along the remote coastlines of nearby islands. Students may keep any empty shells they find.

This excursion is open to registered students and their family members. The tour can accommodate a maximum of eighteen (18) people with six people on each boat. Priority is provided to registered students. The remaining spaces are awarded once interest level is determined. If spaces remain after all students and their families have submitted payment, the additional spaces will be offered on a first come, first served basis to anyone interested so that we can fill the boats and avoid having to increase the per person cost.

Cost: TBD