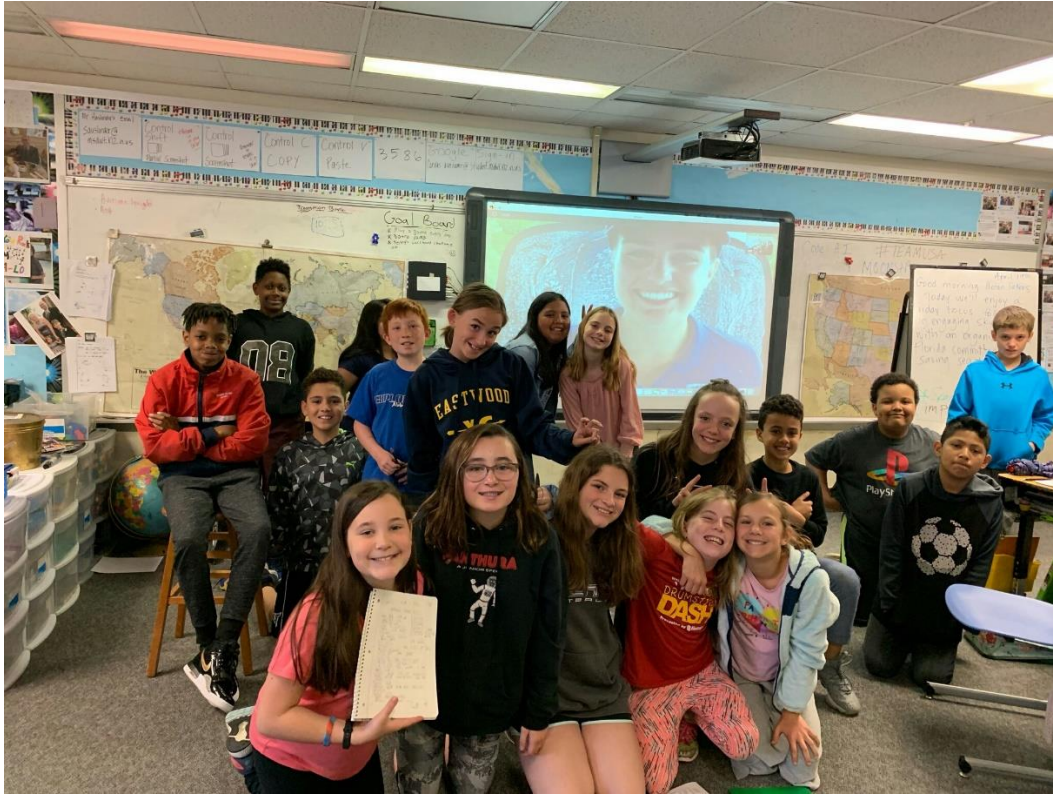


Education and Exhibits Update: July 9th, 2019

1. The **Education Department is excited to welcome our newest team member, Dakotah Tanczuk**. Dakotah joined the FOS family on June 10th as our new full-time Education Specialist. Dakotah holds a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science from Cornell University, and started “working” in the environmental education field at the ripe old age of 12, as a Volunteer Interpreter at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum. In high school, Dakotah volunteered as an Exhibit Guide at the South Carolina Aquarium – a role that eventually led her to a paid Interpretive Guide position with the aquarium. At the South Carolina Aquarium, Dakotah led daily educational programming that was quite similar to what we offer at FOS, so I anticipate a quick transition into her new role. Dakotah made it very clear to me that this is her “dream job.”
2. Florida Oceanographic’s 2019 **marine science summer camp program**, led by Education Specialist Shannon Dack, has reached its midway point for the summer. The camp sessions are nearly booked to capacity, with only 6 open spots remaining.
3. The 2019 **nighttime sea turtle nesting walk program** is booked to capacity (program capacity is 475 guests). To date, guests have been able to observe a nesting sea turtle during 8 of 11 walks. The program will continue on Monday and Thursday nights through August 1st.
4. The Education Department’s grant-funded **Deserving Kids to the Coast field trip program** provided two additional free Coastal Center field trips during June – one for Hope Rural School, and another for Hibiscus Children’s Center.



5. Summer is our busy season for **self-guided group visits** (pre-scheduled educational visits to the Coastal Center for area summer camps). So far this summer, we have hosted 39 self-guided group visits.
6. Our **Virtual Field Trip program** has wrapped up for the 2018-2019 school year. This year, we provided 38 Virtual Field Trips, reaching 1,116 students.



7. Education Department staff members and interns have been working to train and mentor five **Teen Education Ambassadors**. These high school students will serve as Coastal Center Exhibit Guides during the summer of 2019.
8. Florida Oceanographic Society's 2019 **Youth Fishing Tournament** concluded this month. An incredible 660 fish were logged by 18 registered anglers. Prizes will be handed out at an awards ceremony later this month.
9. Director of Education Dr. Zack Jud was quoted in a feature-length **article about Florida's water issues in Outdoor Life Magazine**, a national publication with a print audience of 3.4 million.