



Education and Exhibits Update: May 22, 2019

1. The Education Department's grant-funded **Deserving Kids to the Coast field trip program** has wrapped up for the 2018-2019 school year. Deserving Kids to the Coast provides completely free field trips (including bus transportation) for socioeconomically disadvantaged students from our community. This year, **we provided 11 no-cost field trips for 455 3rd graders** and their teachers from four Title-I elementary schools in St. Lucie County (**up from 7 trips and 280 participants last year**). Each year, the Education Department works to acquire additional grant funding with the goal of increasing the reach of this program. Our ultimate long-term objective is to provide free field trips for every 3rd grade student in St. Lucie County.



2. This month, the Education Department led **8 field trips and 7 Virtual Field Trips**, in addition to daily educational programming at the Coastal Center.
3. Education Specialists Shannon Dack and Yasmeen Fadlallah attended the **Florida Marine Science Educator's Association annual conference** in Crystal River. This professional development conference allowed our educators to meet with colleagues from around the state, with the goal of picking up new ideas to help enhance the educational experiences we offer at the Coastal Center. Shannon was awarded a scholarship by FMSEA to cover conference registration fees and hotel expenses.
4. Online registration for our 2019 **sea turtle nesting walk program** began on May 1st. To date, we have sold more than 215 turtle walk tickets. Walks will be held on Monday and Thursday nights (except July 4th) from May 30th through August 1st. Please let us know if you'd like to attend a sea turtle walk this summer.
5. The Education Department is holding a **training workshop for volunteer sea turtle scouts** who assist with our sea turtle nesting walk program (tonight).
6. Currently, 90% of the available spaces in **Florida Oceanographic's marine science summer camp program** have been filled. Six of our eight camp sessions are completely filled to capacity. We have successfully hired two temporary, full-time summer camp counselors to help Shannon (our Camp Director) with camp operations.

7. Yasmeen developed and implemented a hands-on, **interactive science lesson for Coastal Center guests** to help celebrate our “Sea Turtle Month” theme. Guests had the opportunity to touch actual sea turtle biological artifacts, while learning about the threats facing sea turtles locally and around the globe. Yasmeen, with the assistance of interns Lily and Alex, will facilitate this activity on two Saturdays during the month of May.



8. Education Specialist Nicole Harper led a **Yoga with the Sea Turtles** program on her final day with Florida Oceanographic Society. The program sold out, and we received multiple requests from participants for future yoga programming at the Coastal Center.
9. The Education Department team is currently **interviewing potential candidates for the open Education Specialist position**.
10. The Education Department is excited to welcome two full-time interns for the summer of 2019. Lily Linehan is heading into her sophomore year at the University of Florida, where she is majoring in Environmental Science, and Alex Tenkel is heading into her senior year at Michigan State, where she is majoring in Zoology with a concentration in Marine Biology. Lily and Alex will spend the next 13 weeks working as part of the Education team, helping to fill some of the void that is created as Shannon steps out of her usual role, and into her summertime Camp Director role.
11. Young anglers have been busy catching and logging fish as part of Florida Oceanographic Society’s 2019 **Youth Fishing Tournament**, an offshoot of our Game Fish and Fish Games Youth Fishing Clinic. So far, more than 125 fish have been logged by 18 registered anglers. The tournament will run through June 30th, and will culminate with an awards ceremony. Last year, local businesses donated nearly \$600 in prizes to help reward tournament winners.



12. Director of Education Dr. Zack Jud represented Florida Oceanographic Society at the **Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program’s Citizens’ Advisory Committee meeting**, held in Sebastian, FL. Zack serves as an official Martin County representative on the Citizens’ Advisory Committee.
13. Zack led a **private Coastal Center tour** for the Gambardella family, major supporters of Florida Oceanographic Society.