



Education and Exhibits Update: August 31, 2020

1. This month, Director of Education Dr. Zack Jud has written and submitted **2 grant proposals totaling \$35,000**. If awarded, these grants will support educational programming during the upcoming year.
2. Zack submitted a final report and invoice for a previously-awarded **grant from the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program in the amount of \$18,864.58**. Although the program originally funded by this grant was canceled due to COVID-19, our amended proposal submission was accepted, and we will be able to utilize these funds to cover other educational programs that were carried out this spring and summer.
3. **Florida Oceanographic's marine science summer camp program, led by Camp Director Shannon Dack, wrapped up on August 7<sup>th</sup>**. Although we were forced to cancel the first 3 weeks of camp due to COVID-19, we were able to add one additional camp week to the end of our schedule. This allowed us to complete 6 of the 8 originally scheduled camp sessions. While we did lose some income due to cancellations, our modified camp schedule still generated **~\$21,500 in revenue**. Below are quotes from emails that Shannon received from parents upon the completion of our camp season:

"I just wanted to let you know that my son Billy is still talking about FOS! The mangroves, the stingrays, the seining, and etc! He loved it! Thank you for giving him a wonderful experience this summer. It is definitely what he needed after being home during the Covid19. We will definitely be attending next year."

"Thank you for an amazing summer camp program. Finley and Maisie had a blast and talked about it the rest of the summer."

"Shannon, you are very good at what you do! Our kids have always enjoyed Florida Oceanographic because you care so much."

"We are so grateful for the opportunity to have our son attend! Thanks for all you and your staff did to make learning so fun!...especially under the circumstances we are all living in."

"Thank you! Robert, Olivia, and Sera all had such a wonderful time and learned so much. These camps were the highlight of our summer and we can't wait for next year!"

4. Florida Oceanographic's **nighttime sea turtle nesting watch program wrapped up on August 6<sup>th</sup>**. COVID-19 caused us to delay the start of this program by 3 weeks, but we were able to meet our original target of 19 turtle walks (the same number as last summer) by adding some additional nights during the time period specified in our permit. We cut maximum group size in half and doubled the program's price in an attempt to create a safer guest experience while preserving as much revenue as possible. **To generate additional revenue, we offered private, single-family sea turtle walks for the first time this year. Five families booked walks at the \$500 level, and two families booked at the \$300 level. Sea turtle walks generated \$7,600 in revenue this year.**
5. Education Specialists Yasmeeen Fadlallah and Dakotah Tanczuk led **three live sea turtle nest excavations** in partnership with Ecological Associates, Inc. These live online lessons were shared through Florida Oceanographic Society's Facebook page.

6. Shannon, Yasmeen, and Dakotah created **two additional stand-alone educational workbooks for at-home learning**. These educational workbooks include grade-focused text, original illustrations drawn by Yasmeen and Dakotah, and activities for students to complete while learning from home. This month, we completed shark and ray-themed workbooks aimed at students in grades K-2 (28 pages) and grades 3-5 (32 pages). These resources are available to teachers and families at Florida Oceanographic's Educational Resources website: <https://www.floridaocean.org/educational-resources>
7. We have already received two **requests for virtual programming from college professors**. We plan to increase our fee-based options for college-level virtual programming this school year.
8. During July and August, volunteer trail guides from the Education Department led several **early morning guided trail walks** before the Coastal Center opened to the public. Although these walks were not well attended, we are scheduling another series of guided morning trail walks in October once the weather starts to cool down.
9. **The Education Department team has continued to modify daily activities at the Coastal Center to ensure a safe, captivating, and inspirational visit for our guests**. To date, guest feedback has been positive, and most visitors have been supportive of the COVID-related policies that FOS has implemented.
10. **Two college interns, Gabby Casini and Meagan Knoll, successfully completed 8-week internships with the Education Department**. With most of the Education Department's volunteers taking a leave of absence this summer, the assistance of our interns was essential to the success of our daily educational programming.
11. **Yasmeen** celebrated two years with Florida Oceanographic Society on August 20<sup>th</sup>.
12. Sadly, **Dakotah** has resigned from Florida Oceanographic Society. We wish Dakotah the best of luck in all future endeavors.
13. Zack was featured in a TCPalm **article about sea turtle nesting season**.
14. Zack and Executive Director Mark Perry participated in two **Zoom-based calls with staff members from the offices of Senator Rubio and Senator Scott**. These calls were part of a shark advocacy day organized by Oceana, in support of the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act.