



Education and Exhibits Update: October 19, 2020

1. This fall, Director of Education Dr. Zack Jud has written and submitted 4 grant proposals totaling \$75,000. If awarded, these grants will support educational programming during the upcoming year.
2. Florida Oceanographic Society received reimbursement in the amount of \$18,864.58 through a grant from the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program. Although the project originally funded by this grant was canceled due to COVID-19, we successfully submitted an amended proposal to utilize these funds to support other educational programming.
3. Zack conducted a live virtual lecture for 25 undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in a herpetology course at Mississippi State University. We have two additional college-level virtual lectures scheduled for the month of October. FOS charges \$125 for each of these virtual lectures.
4. We have developed a private guided tour program for guests who would like to visit the Coastal Center during the hours that our facility is closed to the public. Our goal is to provide exclusive after-hours opportunities to families and small groups who would like to access our property without having to interact with other guests. Private tours are held throughout the day on Mondays and Tuesdays, and after 3:30 pm Wednesday through Sunday. Prices range from \$300 to \$400, depending on tour length. Additional information is available at: <https://www.floridaocean.org/private-visits>.
5. We have revised field trip pricing, availability, and policies to accommodate for operational changes related to COVID-19. Although we do not anticipate holding any public school field trips this year, we have been approached by several private schools about possible field trip opportunities. At this time, we are scheduling field trips on Mondays and Tuesdays, when the Coastal Center is closed to the public. Since visiting classes will enjoy a completely private experience, we have raised all field trip prices accordingly.
6. To provide an improved guest experience for Coastal Center visitors, we have increased the seating capacity at the ray program, and we have reactivated all interactive exhibits in the Visitor Center.
7. Education Specialist Yasmeeen Fadlallah and Community Outreach and Event Coordinator Michelle Byriel worked together to create an educational scavenger hunt for Coastal Center guests.
8. During October, the Education Department hosted three early-morning guided nature trail walks, before the Coastal Center opened to the public. One additional guided trail walk is scheduled for October 24<sup>th</sup>. Space in this fee-based program is limited. Registration is available at: <https://www.floridaocean.org/events/guided-nature-trail-walk-8>.
9. In honor of Halloween, Education Specialist Shannon Dack is leading a spider-themed nature walk on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Space in this fee-based program is limited. Registration is available at: <https://www.floridaocean.org/events/spider-trail-walk>.

10. Shannon and Yasmeen are currently training a new group of volunteer Exhibit Guides to assist with informal educational programming at the invertebrate touch tank. This is the first new cohort of Volunteers in Training since March.
11. Shannon celebrated 10 years with FOS in September.
12. Zack was invited to review a scientific manuscript for the research journal Oecologia.
13. Zack was featured in a TCPalm article about Everglades wading birds:  
<https://www.tcpalm.com/story/news/local/indian-river-lagoon/2020/09/22/south-florida-water-management-district-annual-south-florida-wading-bird-report-everglades-nests/5863276002/>.