

Homeschool Group Program Options & Information 2019-20

Self-guided Group Visits

Self-guided group rates are available for homeschool groups of 15 or more to explore the Coastal Center at their leisure and attend our daily public education programs. This is the best option for mixed-age homeschool groups.

Price: \$6.00 per person (students and adults); no free adults

Availability: Monday-Friday, 10am – 5pm

Group size: 15 minimum / 50 maximum

- Groups arriving with less than 15 people will pay regular admission rates
- The number of adults must be less than the number of paying students in the group

Scheduling and payment:

- Pre-scheduling is required to receive the self-guided group rate
- Groups must arrive together and pay with ONE payment method to secure group rate

Or, groups may schedule a Coastal Classroom or Seining Adventure (below) to enhance their visit.

Coastal Classroom Programs

Price: \$12.00 per person (students and adults)

Time Frame: 1 hour guided program (*plus self-guided exploration of exhibits before/after program*)

Program limits: 8 min./ 20 max. students. No more than 10 adults per program.

***We require that students be within 2-3 grades levels of one another.**

Program Options:

◇ Beach Walk

The group will head over to Stuart Beach to learn about dune habitats and the sea turtles that nest on Florida beaches, then explore the wrack line to see what types of natural treasures can be found.

◇ Guided Nature Walk

On this mile walk through our mangrove swamp and hardwood hammocks, the group will learn about these habitats, the Ais Indians who utilized them, and their connection with the Indian River Lagoon.

◇ The Truth about Sharks (PowerPoint-based program)

This classroom program will teach students about the biology of sharks along with debunking myths and highlighting the important role that these top predators play in the health of a food web.

Seining Adventure Program

This is a water-based program and participants will be wading in water up to their waists

Price: \$14.00 per participant (students and adults)

Time frame: 2 hour guided program (*plus self-guided exploration of exhibits before/after program*)

Program limits: 10 min./ 20 max. students. No more than 10 adults per program.

***We require that students be within 2-3 grades levels of one another.**

Age levels: 8 years old and up

Includes: Guided walk down to the Indian River Lagoon, overview of estuary habitats, instruction on use of seine nets, wading and collecting species in the Indian River Lagoon, and review of collected species.

Requirements: All participants must come prepared for the program with a completed waiver and proper footwear. (A changing facility and lunch pavilion are available for use onsite after programming)

Other program details will be given upon scheduling.

Homeschool Group Program

Information and Policies

Making a Reservation: Call or email for available dates for guided or self-guided visits. Self-guided visit options are limited to one group per day. Guided programs require advanced scheduling and are based on availability. An online scheduling form must be filled out and submitted. A confirmation email will be sent within a week of request. Visit www.floridaocean.org to fill out online scheduling form.

Chaperones: For Coastal Classroom and Seining Adventure homeschool programs, our staff and volunteers will lead all educational programming. However, we do rely on adult chaperones to smooth the process by maintaining control of the students and ensuring proper behavior. It is expected that the chaperones will assist as needed and interact with the students so they can have the best experience possible.

- For homeschool Self-guided Group Visits, adult chaperones will be entirely responsible for the supervision of the children in their group. The number of adult chaperones must be less than the number of participating children in the group.

Siblings: Florida Oceanographic guided field trip programs are geared toward K-12th grade students. To help ensure quality programming for your students, please limit the number of non school-aged children in your group. ****Due to safety concerns of a water-based activity, and to ensure adult involvement, we ask that only grade-level students attend the Seining Adventure program.****

Health Concerns: In consideration of staff and other children in the group, please do not send children on the field trip if they are feeling ill.

Arrivals and Payments: Please plan to arrive at least 10 minutes earlier than your scheduled program. Upon arrival, the group leader will proceed to the admissions area to check-in the group. An Education staff member will meet the group at the main entrance to pass out wrist bands and go over the schedule of activities.

*Payment is expected upon check-in. To secure the group rate, the entire group must pay in a single transaction and enter together. Late arrivals will be charged regular admission or forfeit participation.

Family Membership Policies: Adults who are members of Florida Oceanographic may use their valid membership cards to gain access with their group for self-guided visits, but not the Seining Adventure or Coastal Classroom. Florida Oceanographic memberships do not cover student fees for any guided group program.

Cancellations: Please call and confirm directly with a member of the education staff, any changes or cancellations at least 48 hours in advance. Contact 772-225-0505 ext. **116, 118, or 113**.

Late Arrivals: If your group is going to be late for a scheduled guided field trip program, please contact us as soon as possible at **(772) 225-0505 ext. 101 or 111** and let us know your approximate arrival time. While we will do our best to accommodate your late arrival, we do reserve the right to adjust your program time or cancel a portion of your scheduled program depending on time constraints.

Rainy Day/Severe Weather: Florida Oceanographic is an outdoor facility. If there is rainy or severe weather before your arrival and you'd wish to cancel, please contact us to reschedule your program for another date. Once your group has begun a guided tour, we will do our best to accommodate with alternative programming as necessary, however no rain checks will be granted once a program begins.

Bus Parking: Bus parking is located at the south end of the parking lot. Busses may drop their group off at Florida Oceanographic Society's main entrance once a staff member has greeted the group, but then please proceed to park in the designated bus parking area.

Picnic Areas: Please notify staff in advance if you are planning to have lunch on property. Groups may bring their lunch to enjoy after programming is over. Picnic tables are available on a first come first served basis in our group pavilion and other parts of our property. There are additional picnic areas available across the street at Stuart Public Beach. Please clean up after your group eats.

Gift Shop: Florida Oceanographic does have a gift shop that your group may visit. Staff asks that groups only send 4-5 students at a time with a supervising adult.