



## *River Center*

805 North U.S. Highway One

Jupiter, Florida 33477

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### Loxahatchee River Center Education Field Trips

The River Center, located in Burt Reynolds Park in Jupiter, is offering educational field trip programs to public, private, charter, and home schools groups throughout the fiscal school year. Through support from the Loxahatchee River District, the River Center provides these programs for FREE. Our programs are designed to meet the Next Generation Science Standards and Florida Core Standards for kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Our mission is to foster a sense of environmental stewardship for the Loxahatchee River's diverse watershed with quality programs, educational exhibits, and meaningful events.

The River Center features 9 state of the art aquariums representing the different ecosystems of the Loxahatchee River and 7 interactive exhibits, including a fully stocked touch tank. We have updated and innovative programs and are able to offer a variety of activities for you to choose. Our programs include an interactive tour of our facility, a touch tank demonstration, water resources and conservation discussion, as well as a hands-on activity.

Programs are booked by completing and returning the registration form and are accepted on a first come, first served basis. Educational experiences for formal school groups begin at 10a.m. and last until 12 noon Tuesday through Friday. Charter, private, and home school groups also have the opportunity for afternoon programs. We can accept up to 50 students per program. Burt Reynolds Park also offers picnic tables, pavilions, and a playground for students after their visit.

The River Center has qualified as a field trip destination for free bus funding through the Palm Beach County School Board. Check with your school administrator/book keeper for details and scheduling. *Please note: free bus funding is limited, please check to be sure your trip will receive funding.*

Please call the River Center today to check availability, schedule your program, and find more information on our programs. Thank you for your time and we look forward to you and your students coming to the River Center!

Sincerely,

*Megan Harris*

Environmental Education Coordinator

River Center

561-743-7123 ext. 702

[Megan.Harris@lreccd.org](mailto:Megan.Harris@lreccd.org)

### **Sea Urchin Lab**

Students get an introduction into the scientific method and discussion on observation driven experiments using live animals. Students will participate in an activity to learn how sea urchins survive in their environment; compare them to other aquatic species, and the adaptations necessary for their survival.

### **Shark Senses**

Students learn about special shark adaptations and participate in activities to better understand how keen shark senses are. Classes will also explore the River Center's new exhibit Jupiter Shark Exploration to learn about different local species, adaptations, biology, and what makes them top predators.

### **Fish Morphology**

This fun and unique program provides a detailed look into the differences between fish species and adaptations found throughout nature that allows them to survive. Students get the opportunity to create their own fish using different art media to create different adaptations based on their ecosystems and specific habitats.

### **Multi-Sensory Experience**

Students get a first-hand interactive experience in how to make observations and draw conclusions using all five human senses. Students will be given examples of different plant and animal species with different senses and how they use them to survive in their environment.

### **Jupiter Shark Exploration**

Classes will explore the River Center's new exhibit Jupiter Shark Exploration to learn about local species, adaptations, biology, and what makes sharks top predators. Students will focus on why Jupiter is a hotspot for shark activity as well as the local conservation and research efforts in our area. Students will also take a shark survey to see what we know versus what we believe about sharks.

### **Food Web**

Students will participate in an activity to identify the components of a food web in the Loxahatchee River and the inter-connectedness of the animals and plants in these ecosystems and watershed. Students become part of the Loxahatchee learning the complexity of the food web in a fun and interactive way.

### **Grade Habitat Conservation (weather permitting)**

Students learn what a habitat is and what resources animals need to survive. They will understand the struggle animals face in their fight for survival. This modified version of Tag explains the relationship between predators and prey, including habitat preservation and human impacts.

### **Water Cycle**

River Center staff use student volunteers as water molecules to demonstrate evaporation, condensation, precipitation, percolation, and runoff. This activity will introduce students to the various steps of the water cycle and will help them make connections between the water cycle and all living things.

### **Mangrove Adaptations (weather permitting)**

Students will identify mangrove species, adaptations, and the vital role they play in Florida's ecosystem. They will understand the energy flow throughout the estuary including the mangrove producers, juvenile fish nurseries, predatory food supply, and decomposers. Students will compete in a mangrove tug-of-war relating to mangrove estuaries, ocean energy, and human influences.

### **Water Properties Lab**

Students will work in an interactive lab that covers the properties of water including: density, buoyancy, surface tension, and the phases of water based on two different water types. Students will make connections to salt, fresh, and brackish water in their experiments to the ecosystems in the Loxahatchee River watershed.

### **Oyster Reef Ecology Lab**

This activity includes a habitat assessment using samples taken directly from the Loxahatchee River (oyster restoration bags). Macro and Micro organisms are discovered, identified, and classified using microscopes. Students are getting a firsthand look at the primary consumers of the food web in relation to fish nursery food supplies.

### **Shark Exploration-Shark Conservation**

Classes will explore the River Center's new exhibit Jupiter Shark Exploration to learn about local species, adaptations, biology, and what makes sharks top predators. Students will focus on why Jupiter is a hotspot for shark activity as well as the local conservation and research efforts in our area. Students will also participate in activities about shark threats to over fishing and habitat degradation.

### **Squid Dissection (requires 1-month pre-registration; cost \$1/student lab fee)**

Using proper dissection tools and techniques, students will be working in pairs performing a scientific dissection of a squid. Students will learn the classification of squid, their anatomy, characteristics, and adaptations.

### **Middle & High School Design You Own Program**

Teachers work directly with a River Center Environmental Educator to design a program to meet the objectives of the science topic utilizing our multimedia classroom, wet/dry lab equipment, and outdoor setting.



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Program Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation date: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

# 2016-2017 FIELD TRIP REGISTRATION FORM

*Fill out one form for EACH class attending a program*

SCHOOL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE#: \_\_\_\_\_ ALT#: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX#: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL (REQUIRED): \_\_\_\_\_

*(Program confirmations and reminders are sent via e-mail)*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: \_\_\_\_\_

## FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

NUMBER OF STUDENTS: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE(S): \_\_\_\_\_

*(NOTE: Limit of 50 students per daily program)*

DESIRED PROGRAM DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PROGRAM ACTIVITY SELECTION: \_\_\_\_\_

- |                                   |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| K-1st Sea Urchin Lab              | 2nd, 4th, 5th Habitat Conservation |
| K-1st Shark Senses                | 2nd, 5th Water Cycle               |
| K-1st Fish Morphology             | 3rd-5th Mangrove Adaptations       |
| K-1st Multi-Sensory Experience    | 3rd-5th Water Properties Lab       |
| 2nd-3rd Jupiter Shark Exploration | 3rd-5th Oyster Reef Ecology        |
| 2nd-4th Food Web                  | 4th-5th Shark Conservation         |
|                                   | 5th Squid Dissection               |

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION / SPECIAL REQUESTS:

*(Please note special conditions i.e. allergies, physical or mental limitations, etc.)*

## PROGRAM & SCHEDULING INFORMATION:

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*A Program of the  
Loxahatchee River District*