



2016-17 Parent Information

Dear Parent,

Your child can have the experience of a lifetime at MarineLab! This information sheet is to provide you with as much information as possible to make his or her trip a success. MarineLab's focus is on EDUCATION while having FUN and being SAFE!

WHAT WILL MY STUDENT BE DOING AT MARINELAB?

MarineLab is a marine education center. We believe that students learn more through directly experiencing and observing the underwater world. First, we teach students about ecology concepts using Powerpoint discussions and laboratory activities in the evening. After a snorkeling orientation, we take the students into the field aboard our boats and supervise them as they snorkel in the seagrasses, mangroves, and on the coral reefs of nearshore Key Largo. Our instructors lead the students and point out interesting animals and plants underwater. They find small invertebrates, such as crabs, sea stars, and sea urchins, and bring them back to the boat for the students to handle and investigate more closely.

Our staff instructors are all American Red Cross Lifeguard certified, CPR & First Aid certified, have attended special boat safety courses and are very experienced in supervising students in and out of the water. They all have degrees in marine science or a related field, and are very knowledgeable about our local flora and fauna. The boats are Coast Guard Inspected vessels and are operated by experienced Coast Guard Master Captains.

SCHEDULE

Your child will be out on field trips from 9 am - 12 pm and again from 2 pm - 5 pm. Students are in evening programs from 7:00 - 9:30 pm. There is very little down time for your child!

MEALS & ACCOMMODATIONS

Your child will be sleeping in an air-conditioned dormitory, on bunk beds. Children of the same gender from the same school are housed together, they will not be mixed with other schools.

Meals are provided in our cafeteria. There is a place on the Information & Waiver Form to note any special dietary restrictions. **REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLES ARE REQUIRED.** Either send one with your child or ask your teacher about ordering a MarineLab Nalgene bottle in advance!

INFORMATION & WAIVER FORMS

A Student Information & Waiver Form is required of ALL students.

- These forms are available from your child's teacher or from our website (www.marinelab.org). Follow the link to "Parent Resources."
- Please include all medical and special dietary information requested.
- This form must be **SIGNED AND NOTARIZED**.
- If your child will be 18 years old at the time of their MarineLab experience, they must complete a form for STUDENT OVER 18.

WHAT TO PACK?

A packing checklist is provided on our website as well. It is helpful to put your students' names on their belongings!

In the unlikely event of an accident or emergency, students are taken to Mariners Hospital, Tavernier, (305) 434-3000.