



MANGROVES & MARINE DEBRIS

Level: Grades 7 – 12

Cost Per Student: \$60 (no meals provided)

9:00 AM	Arrival and Facility Orientation
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Mangrove Ecology Field Trip (boat excursion, no snorkeling)
11:30 – 12:15	BAG LUNCH FROM HOME
12:15 – 1:15 PM	Invertebrate Behavior Lab
1:30 – 3:00 PM	Discussion and Land Based Field Trip: Marine Debris
3:15 – 4:00 PM	Microplastics Lab

This trip is a one-day field program during which students will be exposed to a mangrove habitat and its invertebrate inhabitants, observe threats to the habitat firsthand, and have the opportunity to be part of the solution as citizen scientists.

On arrival, students will be given a brief orientation of the facility before departing on a boat excursion to Florida Bay. During the trip, students will learn about the unique adaptations of the mangrove habitat, the ecosystem services the habitat provides and the threats to the habitat. Upon return to the dock, students will participate in the Invertebrate Behavior Lab. The lab will allow the students to see inhabitants of the mangrove habitat and conduct their own behavioral experiments to understand the role of these invertebrates.

After lunch, students will discuss threats and solutions to the marine debris issue before participating in a waterfront land-based cleanup. Students will pick up trash and collect data for local scientists. Lastly, students will investigate a marine threat is not quite as visible during the Microplastics lab. Students will analyze 1 L water samples collected during their trip to the Bay to determine the types and abundance of microplastics. The lab data is submitted to the Florida Microplastics Awareness Project.

AVAILABILITY: November, December, January, February