



DISCOVER MARINELAB

The MarineLab Experience is a combination of introductory discussions and hands-on activities. Each day is a new adventure in the seagrasses, mangroves, and coral reefs surrounding Key Largo. These explorations, plus discussion with experienced marine biologists, reinforce science concepts already covered and introduce new concepts and topics for future exploration back home.

ITINERARY

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY
1	1:00 PM	Arrive, orientation This is a facility orientation so that you will know how to get around the MarineLab campus, and includes a review of the safety and behavioral guidelines for MarineLab, such as always wearing shoes in the labs.
	2:00 PM	Swim test This short swim is mostly a demonstration of your comfort level in the water. Students dog paddle or sidestroke, in buddy pairs, for a short distance. If the student is uncomfortable or unable to swim, a ski vest will be provided. It allows our staff to determine who might need extra help and give that child extra attention.
	3:00 PM	FIELD TRIP: Seagrass & Mangrove ecology In this snorkeling field trip, students will explore the seagrass beds and amazing life that lives under and on the mangroves! Instructors will collect algae, seagrass, and small invertebrates for the students to look at back on the boat. The boat returns to the dock at 5:00 PM.
	6:30 PM	Supper - after your warm soapy shower!
	7:30 PM	LAB: Invertebrate Diversity What's living on that rock? Students take algae-covered rocks and discover the tiny marine invertebrates that make up this micro community. Taxonomy of the invertebrates is discussed, along with the importance of diversity and how it relates to the health of an ecosystem.
	8:45 PM	DISCUSSION: Coral reef ecology This is an instructor-led discussion on coral reef biology and the requirements for a health coral reef.
2	8:00 AM	Breakfast
	9:00 AM	FIELD TRIP: Coral reef ecology A snorkeling trip to two different destinations on the coral reef tract. Students will get to observe corals, sea fans, sea rods, and a myriad of fish and invertebrates that all call the reef home. It's like being INSIDE the aquarium!
	12:00 PM	Depart after your field trip - no lunch



FACILITY

MarineLab's campus includes air-conditioned, carpeted dormitories, a full service cafeteria, labs, classrooms, and a fleet of 8 26' boats that are the platforms for our oceanographic instruction. We are located in Key Largo, FL, with easy access to the protected waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, and Everglades National Park.

STAFF

Every instructor has at least a bachelor's degree in science or education, is American Red Cross Lifeguard certified, and is either a US Coast Guard captain or has gone through the US Coast Guard Boating and Seamanship course. All have been extensively trained in supervising students in the water while providing high quality science education, and making it FUN at the same time!



Cost per person: \$160, includes meals and accommodations, all field trips and instruction, a logbook and snorkel gear. Sign up for one of the scheduled **Discover MarineLabs** (check website for dates) or schedule your own date with a group of 9 or more! More details are available at www.marinelab.org.