



# Parent Information

Dear Parent,

Your child is about to 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.

## **WHAT WILL MY CHILD 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 skills review dive in our lagoon, students board a charter dive boat for the reef excursions, or snorkel in the mangroves and seagrasses off our 26' Twin Vee boats. Our instructors lead the students on all field trips 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. MarineLab's Divemasters have additional training in dive supervision. They all have degrees in marine science or a related field, and are very knowledgeable about our local flora and fauna.

## **SCHEDULE**

Your child will be out on field trips from 8 am - 12 pm and again from 1 pm - 5 pm. Students are in evening programs from 7:30 - 10:00 pm. There is very little down time for your child!

## **REGISTRATION FORMS**

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

- These forms are available from your child's teacher or from our website ([www.marinelab.org](http://www.marinelab.org)). Follow the link to "Teacher and Parent Resources."
- The Registration form must be **SIGNED AND NOTARIZED**.
- If your child will be 18 years old at the time of their MarineLab experience, they must complete an **ADULT** form.
- The Waiver must be signed by both you and your child!

## **WHAT TO PACK?**

There is a packing checklist on the next page. It helps if your child's name is on his/her belongings!

*In the unlikely event of an accident or emergency, students are taken to Mariners Hospital, Tavernier, (305) 852-4418.*



## Student Packing Checklist & Contact Information

### CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

We are located at Mile Marker 103.2, oceanside, 51 Shoreland Drive, PO Box 787, Key Largo, FL 33037.

**Office phone** (305) 451-1139 or (800) 741-1139. This number is staffed from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. An answering machine will pick up after 5:00 pm and on weekends.

### TOILETRIES & PERSONAL ITEMS

- Pencil and notebook**
- Protective sunblock** (Waterproof, SPF 30 or higher—no oil!)
- Insect repellent**
- Toiletries** (shampoo, soap, toothpaste, etc.)
- Motion Sickness Medicine** (if motion sickness has been a problem, or if you aren't sure)
- Medication**
- Calling card to use with pay phone (does not accept coins!)**
- Change for snack, soda machines**
- Water bottle**
- Camera** (optional—put your name on it!)

**Don't send large beach towels** - they take up too much space on the boats, and don't dry as quickly. Standard bath towels work fine.

### CLOTHING & LINENS

- Sleeping bag or twin bed linens, and a pillow**
- 2 Towels (one for shower, one for boat)**
- Personal clothing and swimwear**
- Old T-shirts or rash guards for snorkeling** (sun protection-*this is required*)
- Windbreaker or rain coat**
- Plastic bag to carry wet items home!**
- Sweatshirts or jackets for cooler months**

### PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell phones and music players are not allowed on the boats or in the classrooms. Please be sure your child knows to store them securely in their baggage while they're out on the water.

### EQUIPMENT

**SCUBA gear is included in your program!** As divers, we assume that you will have your own mask, fins, and snorkel, but if you don't we have plenty to choose from. If you have a new mask, scrub it with toothpaste before using it or bringing it with you.

### WETSUITS

Wetsuits are included in your program.

### PLEASE DO NOT SEND:

- |                            |                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Food                       | Slurp gun                  | Speargun |
| Dive gloves or dive knives | Cheese Whiz or "fish food" |          |
| Fishing equipment          | Gum                        |          |

### THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM OUR GIFT SHOP:

- |            |        |                            |               |
|------------|--------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Post Cards | Stamps | Calling cards              | Souvenirs     |
| T-shirts   | Books  | Film/batteries U/W cameras | Water Bottles |