



## **Nest Key Field Trip**

Students will board boats to go to Next Key, a mangrove island in Florida Bay, within the Everglades. True backcountry waters! Once at the island, we will discuss mangrove island growth and development. Students will walk a short trail from the edge to the middle of the island to observe island zonation and the shift from mangroves to salt tolerant trees. Afterwards, a seining activity in the waters adjacent to the island will provide students a hands on look at some of the unique organisms we have in our backcountry waters.

***\* Due to heat, insects, etc., we recommend avoiding this trip during the hottest summer months \****

**Grade Level:** All

**Timing:** 3 hours

**Concepts Covered:**

- Mangrove island zonation
- Mangrove island as a habitat
- Seine net fishing

**Vocabulary:** seine, backcountry, island zonation, salt tolerant vegetation

**Extensions:** We can shorten the Nest Key activity/lesson in order to accommodate a brief mangrove/seagrass snorkel



## **Standards Supported:**

### ***Next Generation Sunshine State Standards***

SC.912.L.17.2: Explain the general distribution of life in aquatic systems as a function of chemistry, geography, light, depth, salinity, and temperature.

SC.912.L.17.4: Describe changes in ecosystems resulting from seasonal variations, climate change and succession.

### ***Ocean Literacy Principles***

**Principle 5.** The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.

e. The ocean provides a vast living space with diverse and unique ecosystems from the surface through the water column and down to, and below, the seafloor. Most of the living space on Earth is in the ocean.