



ECCO

Environmental,
Conservation,
& Ocean



Adventures Camp 2015



Key West, Florida

Join The Adventure!



Florida Keys Community College invites kids, ages 10 to 12, to be a part of its new *Environmental, Conservation, and Ocean Adventures Camp*—or **ECO Adventures Camp**, for short!

FKCC's ECO Adventures Camp is a one-week experience based at FKCC's main campus in Key West, Florida. Lead by college professors and research professionals, campers will learn the importance of environmental conservation, sustainability, and restoration through hands-on interactions with the fascinating marine settings in the Florida Keys.

The adventures consist of field trips to the Dolphin Research Center, Turtle Hospital, Dry Tortugas National Park, and MOTE Marine Laboratory. Campers will also regularly enjoy swimming, snorkeling, kayaking, and fishing in the Keys' calm blue waters. They may even choose to become certified Scuba divers through the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI). Rounding out the schedule will be summer camp traditions such as arts and crafts, games, movie night, and stories around the campfire.

FKCC's Eco Adventures Camp is a collaboration with the Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network and The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The week-long camps run each Sunday to Sunday in July 2015.



HEALTHY, SAFE, & SECURE

ECO Adventures Camp is organized by Florida Keys Community College and based on its Key West Campus, monitored by 24/7 security. Campers will stay in the College's residence hall, which features comfortable suites with waterfront views and a bedroom for each camper. The camp is generously supervised 24 hours/day by a trained team of caring and energetic camp counselors—one counselor for every three campers.

A nurse will also be available to treat illness, minor injuries, and administer medication. Additionally, the College is conveniently located across the street from a full-service hospital.

The all-inclusive camp includes daily meals and snacks provided by local catering companies. Campers will enjoy a variety of healthy and well-balanced foods. Accommodations can be made for campers with allergies and special diets.



Adventures



Coral Reef Farming

Did you know that the coral reef is home to one in every four species of marine animals? The coral reef is vital to Earth's biodiversity, but it is in danger. Fortunately, scientists and explorers at MOTE Marine Laboratory are dedicated to preserving the oceans, including the coral reef, for future generations through research, education, and conservation.

On a visit to MOTE's Tropical Research Lab, campers will learn about how these scientists are farming and replanting coral reefs—and other important organisms like the long-spined sea urchin—to replenish the delicate marine ecosystems in the Florida Keys.



Dry Tortugas & Fort Jefferson

All aboard the *Yankee Freedom* to the historic Fort Jefferson located in the Dry Tortugas National Park. Named for the many species of sea turtles that inhabit the Florida Keys, the Dry Tortugas ("Tortuga" is the Spanish word for "turtle.") is also home to a variety of wildlife including birds, fish, coral, and lobsters.

Campers will explore the massive fort and learn about its importance to the Union Military during the Civil War. They will also get to swim and snorkel with the colorful, fish-filled coral reefs surrounding the island.

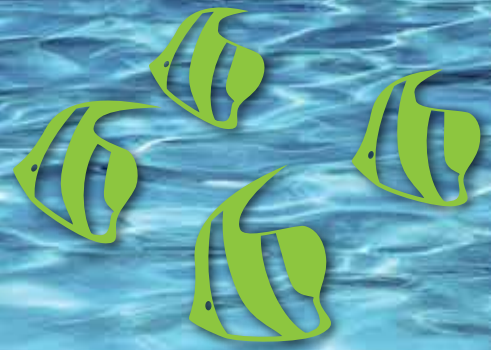


Dolphin Encounter

Get a closer look at one of the most beloved and intelligent mammals in the sea, the bottlenose dolphin, at the Dolphin Research Center in Grassy Key. Once home to the "stars" of the early Flipper movies, the center is now a refuge for California sea lions, cats, iguanas, and exotic birds, in addition to the large dolphin family.

Campers will enjoy a private tour of the facility including a stop at the fish house kitchen, where they will get to prepare a meal for their new dolphin friends. The highlight of the excursion will be a live educational performance by the dolphins, sea lions, and staff which will surely delight and inspire.

Await!



Turtle Hospital

Each year, The Turtle Hospital saves the lives of hundreds of sick and injured sea turtles—many hurt by boats and pollution. On a behind-the-scenes tour of the specialized animal hospital, campers will learn how the team of scientists and veterinarians works tirelessly to rescue, rehabilitate, and release these endangered creatures back into the wild. They will even get to meet and feed some of the turtles.



Key West Experience

The Old Town Trolley will whisk away campers on a tour of the fun and storied island of Key West, including stops at two key attractions. At the Key West Shipwreck Museum, campers will step back in time and discover how Key West became the richest city in the United States by saving the passengers and bounty of sinking ships. At the Key West Aquarium, campers can get up close and personal with a variety of marine critters—including a close encounter with a live shark!



Fun on the Water

Throughout the week, campers will get to take advantage of island life on and in the beautiful waters of the Florida Keys. Campers can paddle over luxurious seagrass meadows, colorful sponge flats and mangrove habitats by kayak, explore under the sea through a mask and snorkel, and learn how to fish like real anglers. They will also be able to rest, relax, and play on the beach with their new friends.



Arts, Aquaculture, and A Bunch More

Although college may be years away for these young campers, they will get to learn from some of the brightest professors at Florida Keys Community College. Campers will express their creativity through poetry and pottery and marvel at the College's aquaculture garden that grows fish and vegetables in one amazing system.





SCUBA ON The Side*

In addition to the full and exciting schedule, campers will have the opportunity to become certified scuba divers through the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI).

Discover Scuba Diving

Have you always wondered what it's like to breathe underwater? Discover Scuba Diving is a quick and easy introduction to what it takes to explore the underwater world. Campers will learn the basic safety guidelines and develop the skills needed to dive in the FKCC pool before taking a dive in the Lagoon.

Junior Open Water Diver

Your ticket to a lifetime of underwater adventure begins with the PADI Junior Open Water Diver course. Upon completion of the most popular and widely recognized scuba course in the world, campers will earn a PADI certification. Through hands-on instruction in both the FKCC pool and Lagoon, campers will develop the skills to safely dive in the open water.

Adventures in Diving

Certified Junior Open Water Divers can take their scuba skills and confidence to the next level in this course. After a safety and skill refresher, campers will complete three adventure dives that will help them to enjoy exploring the underwater world even more. Upon completion, they will be certified Junior PADI Adventure Divers.



FAQs

WHAT IS THE COST OF TUITION?

Tuition for ECO Adventures Camp is \$1,500 per 8-day session (Sunday to Sunday) and covers housing, meals, and all programmatic activities other than scuba programs.

WHAT IS THE ENROLLMENT CAPACITY FOR EACH SESSION?

Each session has the capacity for 30 campers.

WHAT ARE THE SUPERVISION ARRANGEMENTS?

ECO Adventures Camp has 12 Activity Counselors, a Program Manager, and a Camp Director. The Camp Director, Jack Seubert, has 21 years of experience working at summer camps and outdoor environmental education centers. During active periods, there is a minimum of 2 camp staff members per 10 campers. At night, each cabin will have 1 or 2 cabin counselors for 3 campers.

WHAT KIND OF FORMAL TRAINING DO STAFF MEMBERS COMPLETE?

The ECO Adventures staff will complete 2 weeks of formal staff training, which includes: American Red Cross Lifeguarding, First Aid, CPR and AED; appropriate supervision and management of pre-teens; Emergency Action Plans; and ECO Adventure Camp Policies and Procedures. The scuba certified staff members will have PADI Rescue Diver Certification as well.

ARE CELL PHONES PERMITTED?

Yes, communication is important. However, cell phone usage is restricted to allotted time periods each day. Parents and guardians can also call or email the Camp Director to leave messages for their camper.

For answers to more FAQs, please visit www.fkcc.edu/eco-adventures-camp.



DISCOVER MORE

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Key West, Florida