

Field Experiences at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park



John D. MacArthur Beach State Park
10900 Jack Nicklaus Dr.
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

Sarah Norton, Director of Education
561-776-7449 x104
sarah@macarthurbeach.org



www.macarthurbeach.org/school-programs





1st - 3rd Grade Field Experiences

Fish Fun

1st Grade



First graders will explore the estuary habitat, learning about our “nursery of the ocean” as scientists. They will engage in activities focused on fish characteristics and their life cycles including exploring the nature center, using tools to measure and identify fish, and making fish prints!

Standards: SC.1.N.1.1. SC.1.N.1.2 SC.1.L.14.1 SC.1.L.17.1

Over in the Ocean

2nd Grade



Students work together as scientists to investigate the park’s beach habitat. They will dig deeper into how sand is formed and observe the beach’s plant and animal species. Students will also conduct sorting and measuring activities in the science laboratory focused on marine life.

Standards: SC.2.N.1.1. SC.2.E.6.2 SC.2.P.8.1 SC.2.L.17.1

Plants Plus

3rd Grade



Taking on the role of “plant detectives”, students will use clues to identify plant species that grow in the estuary, maritime hammock, and beach habitats. Students will discover different plant adaptations for survival and investigate how plants need sunlight, water, nutrients, carbon dioxide, and space to live.

Standards: SC.3.N.1.1 SC.3.N.1.6 SC.3.L.14.1 SC.3.L.17.2

Water Explorations

1st - 3rd Grade



Working as scientists, students will explore the park to determine how people, plants, and animals need and use water. By conducting a scavenger hunt through the park, students will discover how water is essential for life and how they can help conserve this important resource.

Standards: SC.1.N.1.1 SC.1.E.6.2 SC.1.L.17.1 SC.2.N.1.1. SC.2.L.17.1
SC.3.N.1.1 SC.3.N.1.2



4th & 5th Grade Field Experiences

Bird Basics

4th & 5th Grade



With binoculars in hand, students will become ornithologists, locating and observing wild birds in the park. They will learn how birds' adaptations help them survive in different habitats. Students will also get to study bird adaptations up close by examining skulls and beaks in the science laboratory.

Standards: SC.4.N.1.1 SC.4.L.17.2 SC.4.L.17.4 SC.5.L.15.1 SC.5.L.17.1

Habits and Habitats

4th & 5th Grade



Students will investigate three different habitats found at MacArthur Beach State Park, collecting data on the similarities and differences of each. Using tools to study the weather, soil, and abundance of organisms, students will become scientists to learn about habitats and biodiversity.

Standards: SC.4.N.1.1 SC.4.L.16.2 SC.4.L.17.4 SC.5.L.15.1 SC.5.L.17.1

Wonders of Water

4th & 5th Grade



The water cycle is happening all around us, and students will discover how the water cycle works at MacArthur Beach through activities and experiments. Students will leave the park with an understanding of water as an important resource and how it changes and travels through the water cycle.

Standards: SC.4.N.1.1 SC.4.L.17.4 SC.4.P.8.2 SC.5.E.7.2 SC.5.E.7.4 SC.5.L.15.1



6th - 12th Grade Field Experiences

Beach Explorations

6th - 8th Grade



Why do beaches change over time? Students will explore the park's beach and dune ecosystem to find the answer! Students will determine how weathering, erosion, and deposition shape and form the park's beach environment using scientific tools, data collection, and analyzing their results.

Standards: SC.6.E.6.1 SC.6.E.6.2 SC.6.E.7.7 SC.7.E.6.2 SC.7.E.6.6
SC.7.N.1.1 SC.8.N.1.1 SC.8.N.1.2

Expedition: Biodiversity

6th - 8th Grade



Students will embark on a biodiversity survey across three distinct ecosystems found at the park. As students explore each ecosystem, they'll gather data, observe the variety of organisms, and uncover the significance of biodiversity. This investigation will also provide students a deeper understanding of how high and low biodiversity levels can impact these ecosystems.

Standards: SC.6.N.1.4 SC.6.E.6.2 SC.7.L.17.3 SC.7.E.6.6 SC.8.N.1.1
SC.8.N.1.6

Oceans 911

9th - 12th Grade



Oceans need our help! On this field experience, students will learn all about marine debris and its impacts on our local ecosystems. By conducting their own study and beach cleanup, students will determine the impacts of marine debris and its sources. Students will walk away from this program with new ideas to help our ecosystems and prevent marine debris pollution.

Standards: SC.912.E.6.6 SC.912.L.17.16 SC.912.L.17.18 SC.912.L.16.20



Estuary Field Experiences

Life in the Estuary

5th Grade



What is an ecosystem? Students will discover the answer to this as they wade into the park's estuary ecosystem. Students will explore the estuary on a mangrove walk discovering biotic and abiotic characteristics of the estuary and how organisms have adapted to survive. Students will also participate in seine netting to study organisms up close.

Standards: SC.5.L.15.1 SC.5.L.17.1

Estuary Explorations

6th - 12th Grade



Students will use the estuary as a living laboratory to learn about ecosystem dynamics. As students wade into the estuary, they will participate in a mangrove walk, exploring the biotic and abiotic characteristics. They will also participate in seine netting to have an up-close look at organisms that live there. Students will also test the water quality which impacts the entire ecosystem.

Standards: SC.6.N.1.1 SC.7.L.15.3 SC.7.L.17.1 SC.8.N.1.1
SC.912.L.17.7 SC.912.L.17.9 SC.912.L.17.8

Estuary Field Experience Scheduling and Requirements:

Estuary Field Experiences take place in the Fall and Spring. They are scheduled for low tide mornings. Due to the tides and water temperature, there are a limited number of estuary field experiences offered each year. It is best to request this field experience when bookings open in early August as they will fill up fast.

Students must bring a change of clothes, towel, and water shoes/old sneakers to enter the estuary. Crocs and sandals are not allowed.