Ecology of the Florida Keys

Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium

Florida Keys Community College
5901 College Rd
Key West, FL
33040
WELCOME

Dear Camper and Parent/Guardian

Welcome to Mote Marine Laboratory’s Florida Keys Summer Camp Program! We have a camp of exciting experiences planned for you this summer and are sure you will have an incredible educational experience while snorkeling, exploring tide pools, kayaking, and visiting some of the most amazing locations in all of Florida.

In this packet you will find Rules & Parent Information, Packing List, Camper Behavioral Agreement and Release Forms.

• All paperwork is due **two weeks prior to the start of the program**.
• Mote Staff cannot accept any type of payment the first day of the program. No other reminder will be sent.
• Please also include a **copy of the front & back of the camper’s insurance card** if not yet turned in with registration form.
• Sign the behavior contract agreement. This form can be mailed in or handed in at the **Meet and Greet Welcome** the Sunday before camp.

We would also like to invite you and your family to the **Meet and Greet Welcome** at 2:00 pm the Sunday immediately prior to the first day of your camp week at the Marine Education Resource Center (MERC) - see Mote map. Your attendance will allow you to meet the instructors, staff, interns, and other students attending the trip. You will also become familiarized with the Mote campus, as this is the location for the drop-off the following morning when we will depart for the Keys.

On the first day of camp, we are scheduled to meet in the Marine Education Recourse Center parking lot (see Mote map) at 7:00 am for a 7:30 am departure time. We will return to the same location at approximately 7:00 pm the following Friday.

We look forward to a wonderful summer adventure!

Sincerely,

Mote Marine Laboratory Summer Programs Staff

Reminder: Please pack lightly, as space is limited.
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OVERVIEW

Goals: Ecology of the Florida Keys

The “Ecology of the Florida Keys” Summer Camp Program aims to educate high school students about the natural history and marine ecosystems of the Florida Keys. Through with experiential learning complimented by discussions, activities and interactions with Mote science staff, students will discover the mangrove and coral reef environments that form the Florida Keys and how our scientists are working to understand and conserve this unique and important ecosystem.

Important Names & Numbers

Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium: (941) 388-4441
1600 Ken Thompson Parkway
Sarasota, Florida 34236-1096

Aly Busse: (941) 388-4441 ext. 369 / (941) 302-4988
Assistant Vice President for Education

Brad Tanner: (941) 388-4441 ext. 351 / (941) 302-4981
Senior School Programs Coordinator

Michael Westhead: (412) 576-3268
Marine Science Educator (Education Staff in the Florida Keys)

Florida Keys Community College: (305) 296-9081
5901 College Rd
Key West, FL 33040

Mark Knowles: (305) 393-6255
Facilities and Maintenance Director: Tropical Research Laboratory

Robert Etti: (305) 345-2729 ext. 201
Facilities Administrator: Tropical Research Laboratory

Office Coordinator: (941) 388-4441 ext. 348
Education Office Coordinator at Mote Marine Aquarium
BEFORE THE KEYS

Driving
The drive to Florida Keys Community College in Key West, FL takes between 7-9 hours, so be sure to dress comfortably and appropriately. A Mote Marine Laboratory Summer Programs Staff Member will be driving the van to and from the Keys and throughout the entirety of the trip. Camper are welcome to bring headphones, car games, snacks, and whatever other items they’d like for the long ride down to the keys, but are encouraged not to bring many valuables on the trip. When packing snacks please be conscientious of common allergies and refrain from perishable food items.

Campers should also bring money for lunch on the way to the Keys, and for dinner on the way home. Usually, our options include restaurants like McDonalds and Subway. If your camper does not eat fast food, please be sure to pack them a non-perishable meal for each way.

NOTE: We will not be eating fast food during the camp week, just for the drives to and from. All other meals throughout the week will be included.

Packing
When packing for the keys it is important to remember space is limited on the van and at the dorm, so packing lightly is essential. Be sure to include all toiletries, hygiene products and medicine, as Mote staff will not provide or administer them.

NOTE: SCUBA gear (Tanks, BCD, etc.) will be provided by the charter companies. This does not include snorkel gear; campers are encouraged to bring their own.

For a complete list, please see the suggested packing list on the following page.
Mote Marine Laboratory
Florida Keys Summer Program Packing List

Be prepared for fun but also hot, dirty, wet and sweaty conditions. Pack lightly, as space is limited. Please label all items with first and last name impermanent marker and place in one bag. Mote will be providing snorkel/SCUBA equipment for all campers, unless you would like to bring your own.

**Required:**
- Positive Attitude
- Willingness to learn
- Comfortable, lightweight t-shirts and shorts
- Underwear, socks, belts, etc.
- Beach towels (At least 2)
- Bathing suits (At least 2)
  - Appropriate for swimming and snorkeling
- Water Shoes
- Closed toe and heel, durable sole
- Tennis shoes
- Windbreaker/rain jacket/poncho
- Pajamas
- Sunglasses/Hats
- Sunscreen
  - At least SPF 30
  - NO AEROSOL/SPRAY
- Soap and Toiletries
  - DEODORANT, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, etc.
- Laundry bag
- Wet clothes bag
- Small backpack
- Large duffel bag/suitcase
- Mote water bottle (Provided)
- Money (Monday lunch and Friday dinner)
- Insect repellent
- Condition/Detangler for long hair
- Camera
- Fish ID cards/books
- Notebook and pen
- Reading material/light
- Games
- iPod/Music player with headphones
- Extra Money

**SUBA DIVERS (students grade 9-12)**
- Diver Certification Card (REQUIRED)
- Diver log book

**What NOT to bring:**
- Jewelry/Valuable
- Dive Gloves
- Dive Knives
- Alcohol
- Tobacco products
- Weapons
- Bad Attitude

**Optional:**
- Rash guard
- Board shorts
- Long sleeve t-shirt/sweatshirt
- Motion sickness medicine
  - Dramamine, Bonine, etc.

***Mote Marine Laboratory is not responsible for the loss or damage of items brought on this trip. These items are the sole responsibility of the student/staff***
### Ecology of the Florida Keys
#### 2016 Summer Program
Grades 9-12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Day 1, Monday</strong></td>
<td>Campers will meet at Mote and ride to the Keys in Mote’s Education Mini-bus. The bus will stop for a fast food lunch break around noon. Students will arrive in the Keys by mid-late afternoon and prepare for a swim evaluation. After dinner, students will enjoy a Reef Fish ID program.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wear:</strong></td>
<td>Comfortable and lightweight clothes, closed toe and heel shoes, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen</td>
<td><strong>Bring:</strong> Closed-top sports bottle filled with drinking water, snacks</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Day 2, Tuesday</strong></td>
<td>After breakfast, campers will head to Strike Zone Charters. Campers will snorkel and dive Looe Key and arrive back to the dock for lunch. In the afternoon students will explore tide pools and a local swimming hole for more snorkeling time. In the evening students will enjoy dinner and some ice breaker games.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wear:</strong></td>
<td>Bathing suit under clothes, comfortable and lightweight clothes, closed toe and heel shoes, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen</td>
<td><strong>Bring:</strong> Snorkel, mask, fins, towel, closed-top sports bottle filled with drinking water, water shoes (must have durable soles, closed toe and heel), extra sunscreen, complete set of extra clothes, lightweight long sleeve shirt.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Day 3, Wednesday</strong></td>
<td>Campers will spend the morning kayaking around the local keys and return to our base camp for lunch. In the afternoon, students will enjoy a boat excursion with Strike Zone Charters. Students will snorkel, fish and have dinner on the boat before heading back to base camp for some coral reef activities.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wear:</strong></td>
<td>Bathing suit under clothes, comfortable and lightweight clothes, closed toe and heel shoes, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen</td>
<td><strong>Bring:</strong> Snorkel, mask, fins, towel, closed-top sports bottle filled with drinking water, water shoes (must have durable soles, closed toe and heel), extra sunscreen, complete set of extra clothes, lightweight long sleeve shirt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Day 4, Thursday</strong></td>
<td>After breakfast, campers will head to Strike Zone Charts for a dive and snorkel session with coral reef biologists. Campers will enjoy an evening in Key West and dinner at Hard Rock Café.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wear:</strong></td>
<td>Bathing suit under clothes, comfortable and lightweight clothes, closed toe and heel shoes, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen</td>
<td><strong>Bring:</strong> Snorkel, mask, fins, towel, closed-top sports bottle filled with drinking water, water shoes (must have durable soles, closed toe and heel), extra sunscreen, complete set of extra clothes, lightweight long sleeve shirt.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Day 5, Friday</strong></td>
<td>Campers will pack and make their way back to Mote in Sarasota, but not before stopping at the Dolphin Research Center. Campers will receive an education program and enjoy lunch before heading back to Sarasota. Campers will arrive back to Mote around 5pm.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wear:</strong></td>
<td>Bathing suit under clothes, comfortable and lightweight clothes, closed toe and heel shoes, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen</td>
<td><strong>Bring:</strong> Snorkel, mask, fins, towel, closed-top sports bottle filled with drinking water, water shoes (must have durable soles, closed toe and heel), extra sunscreen, complete set of extra clothes, lightweight long sleeve shirt.</td>
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**Important Parent/Guardian Notes:**

1. **Sign-in/Sign-Out:** Your child must be signed in and out at the beginning and end of the trip by a parent/guardian. Please arrive no early than 6:45 am and no later than 7:15 am. Please arrive and pick up on time. An additional charge of $15 for every 30 minutes, or fraction thereof, will be assessed for late pick-up.
2. **What to Bring:** Each child must bring a filled closed-top water bottle every day. There will be several water breaks throughout the day. All other items listed on the enclosed schedule are required. Please label everything, including snorkel gear, with your child’s first and last name, and place in one bag.
3. **What to Wear:** Please dress campers in comfortable, lightweight clothes and closed toe and heel shoes. No flip flops or sandals unless securely fashioned to feet; tennis shoes are recommended. Please put sunscreen on your child before coming to camp and send extra with your child. Hat and sunglasses are recommended every day.
4. **Food:** Food for campers will be provided from Monday dinner to Friday lunch. We ask campers to bring some money for Monday’s lunch on the way down to the Keys and Friday’s dinner on the way back up. Campers will also have opportunities to purchase snacks on those days.
5. **Please Note:** There are no refunds for Mote Education Summer programs unless Mote cancels the program. If you provide notice of cancellation more than two weeks before the program begins, we will credit your payment to a future 2016 summer program. If you cancel within two weeks of the program or fail to show up without giving notice, you will be charged in full for the program. Mote reserves the right to cancel or modify any program or schedule. Modification of a program schedule by Mote does not constitute grounds for a refund.

*Mote Marine Laboratory reserves the right to modify the above schedule.*
Florida Keys Programs:  
Rules and Parent Information

- Safety of your child is our number one priority. All Mote summer staff and college interns are lifeguard, CPR, and First Aid certified. We will make any necessary accommodations due to weather conditions, behavior problems, and other circumstances in order to ensure a safe situation for all involved.
- Campers must be signed in and out of camp by a parent/guardian when dropped off on Monday and picked up on Friday.
- Respect should be shown to all people, animals, equipment, facilities and the environment.
- Please refrain from inappropriate language/ behavior.
- No alcohol, tobacco products, drugs or weapons are allowed.
- Please obtain the permission of both educators before entering the opposite gender dormitory.
- Students should always be accompanied by at least one other student (“buddy”).
- Students should remain on Mote property; unless they are on a supervised field trip.
- Please attend and be on time to all program components.
- Shoes must be worn at all times during camp. Please see packing list.
- Please bring a filled closed-top water bottle everywhere, along with sunscreen.
- Please limit shower to one per day.
- Rooms must be kept clean.
- Please use clothesline to dry clothes and towel; do not use balcony railing.
- Diving is not permitted in any of the water areas.
- Except for Monday lunch and Friday dinner, all food will be provided by Mote.

Parents/Guardians: If you need to contact your child in an emergency situation, please call (941) 388-4441 ext. 348 during normal business hours (M-F, 8-5). Cell phone contact information for your camper’s instructors will be provided at your Meet and Greet Welcome meeting.

Thank you for signing up for Mote’s Summer Programs.  
It’s going to be a great week!

Mote Marine Laboratory Summer Programs Staff
Camper Behavior Contract Agreement

This statement, when signed by both student and parent, serves as an agreement with Mote Marine Laboratory.

Due to the nature of Mote Marine Laboratory Summer Programs, all participants are expected to act in a responsible and courteous manner at all times. Upon arrival to the program, Mote instructors will review examples of acceptable and unacceptable behavior. Participants are expected to adhere to the guidelines set forth by Mote instructors. If a behavior problem arises, the instructors will first discuss the problem with the individual. If the problem continues, the participant may forfeit participation in future program activities. If the problems are severe, the parent will be contacts to discuss the problem. Finally, if the problem is not rectified, the parents are responsible for providing transportation for the participant to leave the program and a refund will not be issued.

Examples of behavior that will results in a participant leaving the program include, but are not limited to, consumption or possession of alcohol; use or possession of tobacco products or illegal narcotics; possession of a weapon; destruction of property; stealing; and entering the sleeping questers of the opposite gender.

**Participant**: I have read and understand the above statement. By signing this agreement, I agree to act in a responsible and courteous manner at all times. If I do not follow the guidelines set forth by Mote instructors, I understand that I may forfeit my participation in program activities.

Participant name (print): ______________________________________________________
Participant signature: ________________________________________________________

**Parent**: I have read and understand the above statement. By signing this statement, I agree to arrange and pay for transportation if my child must leave the program early.

Parent name (print): _________________________________________________________
Parent signature: ___________________________________________________________
# Mote Marine Laboratory

## Emergency Medical Treatment Authorization and Video Release Form

**Discovering the Florida Keys / Ecology of the Florida Keys**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Camp Participant Name</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>Parent/Guardian Name</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Camp Program Title</th>
<th>Date of Program</th>
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<tr>
<th>Participant Address, City, State, Zip</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Cell Phone #</th>
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**Gender:** M / F  

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<th>Alternate Phone #</th>
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**Health/Accident Insurance Company (Name & Policy Number):**

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<th>COPY OF INSURANCE CARD, FRONT &amp; BACK, IS REQUIRED FOR KEYS CAMPS</th>
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**Emergency Contact:**

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Please list ANY physical limitations, medical problems, and special dietary/medical needs. Medicines must be administered by the student. If no special considerations need to be made, please write “N/A.”

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**Photo/Video Release:**

The undersigned hereby authorizes Mote Marine Laboratory personnel to photograph, film, and/or interview the student during a Mote Marine Laboratory Education Program. To prepare slide presentations, photographs, video tapes, audio tapes, movie films, and computerized multimedia in which the student named above will appear, so as to inform the public about the education programs at Mote Marine Laboratory. All rights, royalties, and materials will belong to Mote Marine Laboratory.

**Please Check One:**

- I, the undersigned, hereby release and discharge Mote Marine Laboratory from any and all claims and demands arising out of or in conjunction with the use of visual and audio recordings.

- I, the undersigned, do NOT agree with the above and do NOT want my minor child to be photographed, filmed, and/or interviewed for the above purposes.

**Release and Waiver of Liability:** I give permission for Mote Marine Laboratory to provide any medical assistance they feel appropriate for my child named above. I also give permission for any emergency personnel to treat my child in the event of an emergency. I will be responsible for any and all medical expenses that may be incurred. In consideration of the right to participate in the Mote Marine Laboratory Education Program, I, for myself and my minor child, have and do hereby assume all risks and will indemnify and hold harmless Mote Marine Laboratory, its employees, trustees, officers, volunteers, and members from any and all liability, actions, causes of action, debts, claims, demands or other liability of every kind and nature whatsoever which may arise from or in connection with my child's participation in any activities sponsored through MML, whether caused by ordinary negligence or otherwise. This signed agreement will serve as a release or assumption of risks for my heirs, executor and administrators, assigns, or next of kin and for members of my family. If any portion of this release is found invalid, the balance will remain in full legal force and effect.

*Parent/Guardian:* You must sign the completed form. Thank you.

**Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian**

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