

## **Study Trip – Your Day at the Lagoon Outline**

Below is an outline and helpful hints for your Indian River Lagoon (IRL) study trip.

### **I. Lagoon Investigator (Lagoonie) Briefing (20-30 minutes)**

Prior to lagoon investigation, a Brevard Zoo instructor will welcome the students to the Indian River Lagoon, review the day's activities, and prepare for their study assignment.

- A. Lagoonies will sit with their assigned study groups and chaperones. (1 group per table)
- B. Everyone should be prepared to discuss the Indian River Lagoon and listen to instructions.
- C. The Zoo staff will brief chaperones on their responsibilities for the day.
- D. Each study group will receive a bucket, seine net, mini aquarium, and clipboard that they are responsible for carrying to and from the study site.
- E. Initial scientific observations will be recorded on the data sheets provided by the Zoo staff.

### **II. Lagoon Investigation (30-45 minutes)**

Lagoonies gather their materials, leaving personal items behind, and walk to the study site (i.e., water) with their study group to begin exploring the lagoon. Teachers and chaperones are required to escort groups into the water and remain with their group at all times. Students remain in water less than waist deep at all times and do the "stingray shuffle" to avoid injuring themselves. Students pair with each other to seine, collect, and identify organisms.

- A. Students take turns seining, collecting, and treating all living organisms with respect.
- B. Carefully remove organisms of interest from the seine net with wet hand.
- C. Organisms are kept in water in the buckets provided. In an effort to minimize risk to organisms, only collect 1 or 2 of each species per bucket.
- D. Chaperones monitor the group closely, keeping them together and on task. Record plants and animals on the checklist provided.
- E. When the whistle is blown, gather on shore with your group and bucket. Do **NOT** release the organisms in the bucket at this time! Zoo staff will pick desired organisms from each group and then release the rest.
- F. **Water Quality Testing:** Students will assist Zoo staff in performing tests to evaluate the lagoon water quality at each study site.
  1. Tests may include: pH, temperature, salinity, and turbidity
  2. Each teacher should bring a bottle/test tube and plankton net for plankton sample.
  3. Teachers may want to use data that other schools collected at various sites and/or data from FLORIDA TODAY to create student opportunities for data analysis.
- G. Organisms are identified, discussed with classmates back at pavilion, and then released.

### **III. Brain Break (30-45 minutes)**

Study groups return to the pavilion area with group's equipment to change out of wet clothes, break for lunch, and power up for the Scavenger Hunt. Proper supervision is critical.

### **IV. Indian River Lagoon Scavenger Hunt & Enviroscape Model (60-90 minutes)**

A Brevard Zoo instructor will:

- A. Lead a discussion to inspire Lagoonies to become Lagoon Keepers through their actions.
- B. Provide instruction for scavenger hunt and Enviroscape procedures.
- C. Divide Lagoonies into 2 groups and begin these activities.

### **V. Study Trip Wrap-up (15 minutes)**