



Tampa Bay Watch
Discovery Center
Field Trips
2023-2024

Discover Tampa Bay!

Overview

The Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center offers a variety of field trip options that can be tailored to your group's needs and interests. Please review the details below before you schedule your visit:

- The Discovery Center can accommodate a maximum of 25 students per program in the classroom, and 45 students aboard the eco-vessel at one time.
- The Discovery Center welcomes two chaperones for every 25 students.
- Every field trip experience includes admission to the Discovery Center's Exhibit Gallery. 45 minute guided tours are available for \$100 per 25 students.
- Groups are responsible for providing their own transportation and food.
- The Discovery Center reserves the right to cancel scheduled field trips due to unforeseen circumstances. In the unlikely event of a cancellation, the field trip will be rescheduled if possible. If we cannot reschedule, a full refund will be issued.

Please note:

- Chaperones must be present and are responsible for providing disciplinary action if necessary.
- Select activities are weather-dependent and subject to change at the discretion of the Discovery Center staff.
- All schedules can be adjusted to include breaks upon request.



The Discovery Center's classroom can accommodate up to 25 students per lab. Groups with more than 25 students will be split into two labs, and will be charged for both labs. The eco-vessel has space for up to 45 students at a time. Two chaperones are included in the \$300 rate, and four chaperones are included in the \$500 rate.

Classroom Labs

Our classroom has a maximum capacity of 25 students, and all labs are approximately 45 minutes long. Each classroom lab costs \$150. The following labs can be selected with a maximum of 4 per day:

- **Pier Into Plankton**
 - Take a look at the microscopic marvels in our bay. Students collect and identify plankton using microscopes, then learn about its role in ocean health.
- **Lionfish Dissection**
 - Join us to explore the ins and outs of the invasive lionfish. Uncover the truth about these problematic fish through a hands on dissection and learn what is being done to eliminate them.
- **Squid Dissection**
 - Join us for mollusk mania! Students participate in a squid dissection to learn about the animal's anatomy and adaptations.
- **Invertebrate Investigation**
 - Roll up your sleeves and get up close and personal with the animals that live in the Tampa Bay estuary. Students interact with various invertebrates from our touch tank while practicing observation skills and scientific classification.
- **Shark Science**
 - Learn what makes sharks successful predators in the ocean and some of the challenges they face. Participants will leave with a new appreciation for these highly evolved (and often misunderstood) fish.
- **Herpetology 101**
 - Across Florida, you can find reptiles and amphibians slithering and leaping. Discover what makes these animals unique, and learn to identify some of their key characteristics. This program includes interactions with our live reptile and amphibian ambassadors.



Step Into Our Floating Classroom

Welcome to our floating classroom! Board our 45-foot eco-vessel, "The Discovery", for a unique, field-based learning experience. Our educators will lead your group through interactive marine science programming. Every trip includes a trawl net pull to sample the seagrass and count marine life. It's science in action!

Eco-Vessel Experience

- Includes a 90-minute program aboard our eco-vessel. You must provide one chaperone for every 13 children. \$300 for ≤ 25 students or \$500 for 26-45 students. Snorkel tours are 2 hours and \$400 for ≤ 25 people. Fishing workshops are 2 hours and \$350 for ≤ 15 people.
- **Estuary Habitats**
 - From seagrass beds to mangrove roots, there are habitats galore in Tampa Bay! Come find out who lives where, and what makes an animal and its habitat a perfect pair. *Best for K-5th
- **Amazing Adaptations**
 - It's an adaptation celebration! Discover how animals' unique bodies and behaviors help them stay comfortable in their environment. *Best for K-5th
- **Salty Science**
 - What's in a drop of water? More than you might expect! Learn about water quality, harmful algal blooms, and how these things affect Tampa Bay wildlife. *Best for 8th-12th
- **NEW! Sandbar Snorkeling**
 - Splash around Tampa Bay with us! Offered seasonally, our sandbar snorkeling excursions offer a chance to cool off while exploring the ecosystem. *Ages 5 and up.
- **Eco Vessel + Classroom Lab**
 - Includes a 90-minute program aboard our eco-vessel and an indoor classroom lab. You must provide one chaperone for every 13 children. \$450 for ≤ 25 students or \$800 for 26-45 students.
- **Invertebrates - Spineless but Special**
 - Life without a backbone comes in many different forms. Learn about the common invertebrates we find in Tampa Bay and how they survive spinelessly. *Best for 4th-8th
- **Fintastic Fishes**
 - Is a seahorse a fish? What about a shark? We'll tell you what makes a fish a fish, and go on a fish finding mission to show you some of our favorite local species. *Best for K-5th
- **All About the Bay**
 - This tour is all about our favorite estuary: Tampa Bay! Learn about bay ecology and biology and observe wildlife such as birds and fishes. *Best for all ages and mixed grade groups.
- **NEW! Fishing Workshop**
 - Learn to fish with Tampa Bay Watch! Students will learn fish friendly practices, such as how to keep fish alive and well during catch and release, then practice casting a responsible line. We'll go over appropriate tackle, fish handling, how to help entangled wildlife, and how to protect your favorite fishing spots. Ages 8 and up.



How to Reserve Your Program

Review the program descriptions above to learn about our available topics. We are also able to customize a program for your group's needs upon request. Select your preferred program when completing the reservation request form. All of our engaging programs can be modified to be grade-appropriate. We recommend our dissection labs for students in grades 2 and up.

Requesting a Date

- When completing the reservation request form, specify the dates you are available to visit in order of preference.
- Requested dates are not guaranteed; reservations are made on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Your field trip is not secured until you receive a confirmation email with an agenda and invoice.

Payment

- All fees are due prior to the first day of scheduled field trip experiences.
- Payment will be processed through a payment link provided by the education coordinator once the reservation has been confirmed.

Cancellation Policy

- Cancellations made more than 30 days before the scheduled date will forfeit a \$25.00 processing fee.
- Cancellations made more than 7 days before the scheduled date will be refunded 50% of the total invoice.
- Cancellations made less than 7 days before the scheduled date will not be refunded.
- The Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center reserves the right to cancel scheduled field trips due to circumstances that are out of our control, including weather. In the unlikely event of a cancellation, we will do our best to reschedule your experience. If we are unable to reschedule at a time that works for both parties, a full refund will be issued.

