FAMILY ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

MOTE MARINE LABORATORY & AQUARIUM
SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Wednesday, April 15 to Saturday, April 18, 2020
Workshop Descriptions

Field Sampling Techniques: Wade into the coastal waters of Sarasota Bay and collect fish and invertebrates with dip and seine nets. Learn about the estuary habitat and scientific methods to study it. You will then get a chance to analyze and report on what you find in creative and colorful ways.

Kayaking on Sarasota Bay: Learn how to kayak and explore sea grass beds and mangrove habitats. Mangroves are trees that grow in salt water and provide protection from the wind and water for the coastline. Mangroves are used by a variety of species as a nursery habitat, so be sure to look for fish, birds, and other ocean creatures.

Fish Dissection: Through this workshop, you will gain an appreciation of the complexity of marine organisms through hands-on exploratory investigation. Step into the shoes of Mote's marine biologists and learn how they study external and internal anatomy to learn more about adaptations, diet, and overall health.

Mammal Mysteries Workshop & Bone Room Tour: Discover how Mote’s Stranding Investigations Program uncovers the mysteries of marine mammal strandings and solve a case of your own! Learn what is impacting Sarasota’s marine mammal populations and what you can do to help. Then meet one of Mote’s investigators, see some of the real life cases, and visit the world famous Ruth DeLynn Cetacean Osteological Collection (a.k.a. The Bone Room!)

Manatees: Meet Hugh and Buffett, the world’s most highly trained manatees. By working with these mammals, Mote scientists have learned much about how well manatees hear and see, and how sensitive their vibrasse – the hairs on the end of their snouts – are. Answering these important biological questions can help scientists understand more about Hugh and Buffett’s wild counterparts and monitor this endangered population.

Private Guided Tour of the Aquarium: Take an after-hours tour of this amazing aquarium with an expert and get to know fish in a whole new way.

Sarasota Bay Explorer: Join a naturalist on this cruise through Sarasota and Roberts Bays to learn about the ecology, history, and folklore of the area’s nesting habitat. The highlight of this trip is the collection of a sample of marine life with a trawl net. Observe and handle some of the curious residents of Sarasota Bay: puffer fish, sea horses, stone crabs, cow fish, and more.

Snorkeling: Discover why scientists study the ocean while snorkeling in Sarasota Bay where the water is clear for an up-close view of underwater residents.

The Teeth Beneath Tour: Florida’s waterways hide wondrous ancient creatures. The crocodilians (alligators, crocodiles, caimans, and gharials) inhabit tropical and warm-temperate lowlands. Human impacts threaten many crocodilians, but conservation and science-driven management can help these old timers survive and continue their valuable jobs as top predators in their ecosystems. Meet one of Mote’s animal caretaker trainers and watch a live training session.
Wednesday, April 15

The schedule for this unique experience is subject to change, due to weather conditions and programming needs. Please follow the directions of the staff throughout the program. Coral Classroom in the Keating Building will be our base of operations.

5:00 P.M.  **CHECK-IN AND WELCOME**  
Location: Entrance of Mote near the Whale Fountain Statue  

**TBD**  
Center for Talented Youth  
Johns Hopkins University  

**ELAINA WHEATON**  
Community Programs Manager  
Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium

5:30 P.M.  **GUIDED TOUR OF AQUARIUM**

6:30 P.M.  **WELCOME DINNER**  
Location: Coral Classroom, Keating Building

8:00 P.M.  **CONCLUSION OF EVENING’S ACTIVITIES**  
*Please be at Coral Classroom by 9:15 tomorrow morning so we can begin the program on time.*

Thursday, April 16

9:30 A.M.  **SNORKELING WORKSHOP**  
Location: Depart from Coral Classroom

12:00 P.M.  **GROUP LUNCH**  
Location: Chickee Hut

1:00 P.M.  **FIELD SAMPLING TECHNIQUES**  
Location: Sarasota Bay

3:00 P.M.  **THE TEETH BENEATH TOUR**  
Location: Marine Mammal & Sea Turtle Center

4:30 P.M.  **CONCLUSION OF TODAY’S ACTIVITIES**  
*Please be at Coral Classroom by 9:45 tomorrow morning so we can begin the program on time.*
Friday, April 17

10:00 A.M.  **Fish Workshop & Lionfish Dissection**  
Location: Coral Classroom

12:00 P.M.  **Lunch**  
Location: Coral Classroom

1:00 P.M.  **Afternoon Activities I**  
Location: Depart from Coral Classroom  
**Red Group: Kayaking in Sarasota Bay**  
Location: Chickee Hut and Sarasota Bay  
**Green Group: Nature Walk / Meet the Manatees**  
Location: Bay Walk Area and Mammal & Sea Turtle Center

2:30 P.M.  **Afternoon Activities II**  
**Red Group: Nature Walk / Meet the Manatees**  
Location: Bay Walk Area and Mammal & Sea Turtle Center  
**Green Group: Kayaking in Sarasota Bay**  
Location: Chickee Hut and Sarasota Bay

4:00 P.M.  **Conclusion of Today’s Activities**  
*Please be at Coral Classroom by 9:45 a.m. tomorrow so we can begin the program on time.*

Saturday, April 18

10:00 A.M.  **Mammal Mysteries Workshop & Bone Room Tour**  
Location: Coral Classroom and Marine Mammal & Sea Turtle Center

12:00 P.M.  **Farewell Lunch**  
Location: Coral Classroom  
*Please take a moment to fill out the CTY evaluation.*

1:30 P.M.  **Sarasota Bay Boat Trip on the Explorer**

3:30 P.M.  **Conclusion of Program**  
*Thank you for joining us for this unique experience.*