

**St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge
Environmental Education Program Information and Policy**

- Programs are FREE for groups that have educational curriculum requirements that can be met by our outdoor classrooms.
- Programs are designed to accommodate from 15 to 60 students.
- Programs are correlated to Florida Sunshine State Standards.
- Pre and post visit activities available.
- Unless otherwise noted in education brochure, schools/organizations are expected to provide one adult chaperone for each 15 students attending our educational programs.
- Chaperones and teachers will actively participate in the presentation of the programs under the supervision of the Refuge educational staff, and should come dressed appropriately for the program requested.
- Students and chaperones must wear closed toed shoes to participate in programs.
- Programs offered during the school year from Sept. 14-May 25 Tues-Friday; starting at 10 am and finishing by 1:30 pm.
- Summer programs will be offered on Fridays from May 26-August 13 between 9 am and 1:00 pm.

In order to continue to offer free programming for schools/organizations, we now require that groups complete and return pre and post visit assessments. Groups that do not provide this information may not be rescheduled in the future. Assessments can be found on the website or sent directly to the group from the education specialist.

Due to the popularity of our programs and the availability of staff, organizations that charge for their services (i.e. summer camps, and/or day camps), may schedule only 1 program per month. If this does not meet their needs, refuge staff will work to train said organization's facilitators to perform the program they require. There will be no entrance fee charged for that organization to bring their group to the refuge for the self-guided environmental education program. To insure the best program experience for everyone; self guided programs still must register with the refuge so there will be no logistical problems of multiple programs taking place at the same time and place.

Refuge materials may be checked out if they are not already in use by a previously scheduled program. In cases where items are checked out, it is the responsibility of that organization to return those items in the same condition they were checked out. If any items are broken or damaged it will be the organizations responsibility to repair or replace said items.

****Policy subject to change as required by staffing and logistical needs.***