

## St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge 2019-2020

### Environmental Education Program Information and Policy for Schools

- Our educational programs are FREE for groups that have educational curriculum requirements. ***\*If your group charges fees see note below.***
- All programs require a minimum of 15 students (age appropriate for the program reserved).
- Maximum number of students for a program is 50. For groups with more than 50 you must schedule multiple days. Please submit a request form for each day requested.
- Refuge programs are correlated to the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards.
- Pre and post visit activities available upon request.
- On-site programs will start at 10 am and conclude at approx. noon. (In cases where groups must travel a greater distance, we can adapt to fit their needs; however, we must be made aware of the late arrival time in advance.
- Students must wear closed toe shoes to participate in programs. ***Students with open toe shoes will not be allowed on the trails or in the water.***
- Unless otherwise noted in brochure, schools/organizations are expected to provide at least one adult (over the age of 18) chaperone for each 10 students attending our educational programs.
- Chaperones and teachers must stay with their groups the entire time of the program for both on and off site programs.
- Chaperones and teachers are expected to **actively participate** in the presentation of the programs under the supervision of the Refuge educational staff; this includes getting in the water for the coastal explorer and freshwater ecosystem programs. If adults do not go in the water, neither will the students.
- Chaperones and teachers are expected to come dressed appropriately for the program requested, closed toe shoes are required. (i.e.: no high heels or other open toe shoes are allowed, this is a safety issue).
- Programs may be scheduled during the school year from Sept. 5-May 15 Tues-Friday, starting at 10 am and finishing by 1:30 pm.
- We ask that chaperones NOT bring siblings to the programs; this often causes distractions from the programs, and keeps the parent from concentrating on their duty as chaperone.

***\*Due to the popularity of our programs and the availability of our staff, organizations that charge for their services (i.e. summer camps, and/or day camps), may schedule only self-guided programs. Refuge staff can train said organization's facilitators to perform the program they require if requested at least two weeks in advance. 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 location. Refuge programs are given preference for locations and dates.***

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