



**255 Live Oak Drive  
Vero Beach, FL 32963  
(772) 589-5050  
[www.DiscoverELC.org](http://www.DiscoverELC.org)**

Contact: Holly Dill, Executive Director  
[holly@DiscoverELC.org](mailto:holly@DiscoverELC.org)

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### **ELC's Stapleton Receives CIP**

**Wabasso Island, Fl** – The Environmental Learning Center (ELC) announced that Education Coordinator, Heather Stapleton, has been awarded the designation as a Certified Interpretive Planner (CIP) from the National Association for Interpretation (NAI). The NAI is a not-for-profit professional association for those involved in the interpretation of natural and cultural heritage resources in settings such as parks, zoos, museums, nature centers, aquaria, botanical gardens, and historical sites. Its 5,000 members include volunteers, docents, naturalists, guides, and program directors. The certification that Ms. Stapleton received documents that she possesses the skills and knowledge to perform successfully as an interpretive planner.

Interpretive planning is the decision process that blends management objectives and resource considerations to determine the most effective way to communicate an organization's message to the public. Ms. Stapleton coordinates the ELC educational programs attended by all Indian River County elementary school children. In addition, she develops and participates in other ELC programs for the public that advances the ELC's education mission.

The Environmental Learning Center is located north of Vero Beach, off County road 510 at the end of the Wabasso Bridge. Its 64-acre island campus includes exhibit areas, native plant gardens, picnic facilities, gift shop, and visitor center. Admission is \$5 per non-member with children 12 and under free. A list of its many field excursions, including hikes, boat excursions,

nature walks and bird watching can be found at [www.DiscoverELC.org](http://www.DiscoverELC.org)., or by calling (772) 589-5050 for a schedule to be mailed.

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