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Environmental Learning Center Expands Touring Opportunities

Wabasso Island, FL – Visitors to the Environmental Learning Center’s 64-acre Wabasso Island campus can now explore the wonders of our Indian River Lagoon environment in many more and different ways. There is something for virtually all age groups.



Four new discovery options are available. One, called Nature Passport, is especially designed for families with young children under 8 years old. A discovery guide booklet includes scavenger hunts, questions to encourage exploration of the ELC campus, spaces for the children to draw, and tips on how to help our natural resources. After completing each scavenger hunt, explorers can get their passport stamped with a special nature stamp in ELC’s visitor center. The guide costs \$1 to cover printing costs.

A well stocked backpack is the highlight of the second touring option which targets families with children 8 years and up. It includes an activity book with accompanying backpack filled with nature equipment: bug boxes, dip net, and binoculars. Young explorers are then well equipped to discover the natural wonders. Students can dip small fish from the pond or take the stairs to George’s Perch to use their binoculars for bird watching. The \$1 cost for the guide also covers the use of the backpack for this discovery adventure.



The third option is a cell phone audio tour. Pick up a map and instructions at the entry pavilion and explore at your own pace. There are 13 different stations with an audio description lasting about a minute each, recorded by TV and radio personality Marcia Littlejohn. All you need to do is dial the number on your cell phone and follow the prompts. You will hear interesting descriptions, ranging from our state butterfly and the giant land crab to the various types of mangroves populating the ELC and Indian River Lagoon. There is no charge beyond ELC’s admission fee for the cell phone audio tour. Disney’s Vero Beach Resort is the Sponsor of the audio tour.



Finally, a fourth option is to use new ELC reference flip books that are loaded with facts, figures, descriptions, and more, to get information about what you see, hear, and smell on ELC’s campus. There are three flipbooks which detail three distinct sections of the campus. Check one out when you begin your trek to make it more enjoyable and meaningful. There is no charge for the use of the flip books.

Trek & Tracks Nature Walks are conducted numerous times each month. These are easy strolls around the ELC campus led by a knowledgeable nature guide. An array of topics, including birds, plants, fish, and history are covered. Reservations are not necessary, and there is no charge

beyond admission to the Center. Schedule times and dates are available on the ELC website www.DiscoverELC.org or by calling the ELC at (772) 589-5050.

The Environmental Learning Center is located north of Vero Beach off County Road 510 at the western end of the Wabasso Bridge. Its campus includes exhibit areas, native plant gardens, picnic facilities, gift shop, and visitor center. ELC membership benefits, a list of its many field excursions, EcoVentures, including nature walks, canoe excursions, and boating adventures can be found at www.DiscoverELC.org. Admission is \$5 per person, children 12 and under free. The first Saturday of every month is free to all.

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