



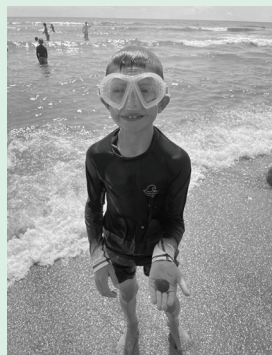
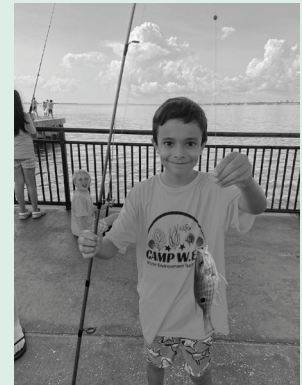
TURTLE TRACKS

FALL 2023

Summer Camp 2023

**“On the shore of nature’s magic, I dreamed summer knew no end”
-Angie Weiland Crosby**

As we wave goodbye to the summer of 2023, we are left with warm, salty, sandy memories of long days spent with friends... fishing, seining, swimming and learning new things like how to throw a cast net, tie a figure eight knot and about all the wonders that live beneath the water’s surface. Summer truly is a magical time to be a kid, and, now that they are all back to school, the memories live on and the anticipation for that one field trip during the school year is eagerly awaited! Thank you summer of '23, it was a good one!



Ready for the school year!

Our amazing ESC teachers are ready for the school year! Each teacher works so hard to improve the environmental education and leave a lasting impression for every child that walks through the door. Approximately 500 children go to the ESC each week ready for an adventure. Some children have never even seen the ocean, true story!! So you can imagine how amazing this experience is for them and what a big responsibility our teachers have to ensure a lasting footprint on the hearts and minds of our future generation. Well done teachers and we wish you a wonderful year!!



Please consider leaving a legacy by naming the Environmental Studies Council in your estate plans.



The Environmental Studies Council, Inc.

2900 NE Indian River Drive
Jensen Beach, FL 34957
Council Office: (772) 219-1887 x 121
Center Office: (772) 219-1887

Mission Statement

To protect and enhance the education programs of the Environmental Studies Center and to promote and extend environmental awareness through community education.

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Many thanks to  **southeastern**
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for printing Turtle Tracks
and using Green Ink

From the desk of the President

I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits as we gear up to embark on another promising academic year. It brings me great joy to welcome you all back from your well-deserved summer break. I trust you had a chance to relax, recharge, and make wonderful memories with your loved ones.

As we stand at the threshold of a new school year, I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to each one of you for your unwavering commitment to our institution. Your dedication and passion are the driving forces behind our collective pursuit of excellence, and I am confident that this year will be no exception.

I am pleased to share some exciting updates about our campus, particularly in our beloved Wetlab. Thanks to the generous support of Impact 100, we have been able to undertake significant renovations in the Wetlab over the summer months. The results are truly remarkable. We have successfully installed an air conditioning system, ensuring a conducive environment for all our aquatic inhabitants and researchers.

None of this would have been possible without the invaluable support of Impact 100. Their commitment to education and our institution's growth has left an indelible mark on our campus, and we are immensely grateful for their partnership.

Looking ahead, I am thrilled to announce that we have an exciting lineup of events planned for this year. To stay updated on these events, I urge you to keep a close watch on our social media channels and campus bulletin boards for dates and details.

Welcome back, everyone! Here's to a fantastic start to the new school year.

Sincerely,
Coltin Radabaugh

Did Your Membership Expire?

Have you renewed your membership to the Environmental Studies Council? We need your support!

To sign up, log on to www.escmc.org or call (772) 219-1887 x 121

BIO CORNER

By Kara Muzia

Seining is hands-down one of the fan-favorite activities at the Center. Whether they're on a field trip or summer camp, students absolutely love getting that net in their hands.

It's a group sport, seining. First, it's you and a partner out there, doing the stingray shuffle through the waters of the Indian River Lagoon. Prod prod prod go the poles of the seine net, one for you, and one for the partner stretched across the net from you. Shuffle shuffle shuffle go the feet.

It's important to always keep that forward momentum when seining. If you stop, the faster critters will most certainly escape. And the thought that The Creature, the one you've all been waiting for, could possibly escape, keeps students moving through the brackish water.

Gently, carefully, the net is hauled onto the beach and placed in the sand where friends and teachers gather round. At first glance, it doesn't look like much- a jumble of algae and sea grasses. Then a shrimp snaps. A pinfish wiggles. And it's all hands on deck to get the creatures safely back to the water. The more interesting ones, like the adorable juvenile burrfish, are put in a bucket in the shade- these will be taken back to the Center and placed in a tank. Most are simply released.

Just as it looks like the net is mostly cleared, an odd shape in the corner is pointed out, gently picked up. It's the ultimate find: a seahorse. Gently, gently this creature is placed into the bucket, and immediately it dives. It's easily the most awkward swimmer in the bucket- rocking back and forth, using its tiny dorsal fin and tail for propulsion. It curls its tail around an errant piece of sea grass that had been accidentally added to the bucket, and everyone crowds around. It's a decent size, this Hippocampus. Someone speculates that it could be an adult male, and excited chatter of baby seahorses breaks out.

Teachers signal the end of the day. Students shake out the nets and pack up another fun day at the ESC, chattering excitedly about the living treasures discovered today on the shores of the Indian River Lagoon.

THANK YOU!



A huge THANK YOU goes out to the Environmental Studies Council for supporting the Environmental Studies Center each year with a teacher salary. We are grateful for the donation and also the incredible support throughout the year! The Environmental Studies Council is a vital part of the growth of the Center, striving to make a difference each year through donations and fundraising efforts. The council would like to thank our wonderful community for the continued support over the years. We couldn't do it without you!!

50TH ANNIVERSARY SPONSORS

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Save the Dates

October 21
Fall Open House
10am-1pm

November 27
Home School Day (sign up
only)
10am-12pm

February 10, 2024
Grandparents Day
9am-12pm

March 8, 2024
Home School Day (sign up
only)
9am-11am

April 27, 2024
Spring Celebration
10am-1pm

Wish List

The Environmental Studies Center needs your support! The Center has a current need for:

- Boat hard top
- Stereoscopes
- Dip nets
- Compasses for the Sea Scout
- Hydrometer
- Plankton Net
- Plantation Shutters in Orange Door Room
- Signage for Yellow Door

If you are interested in supporting any of the above opportunities, please contact us at info@escmc.org or by calling 772-219-1887 x121. Or stop by the Center - we'd love to see you!

Environmental Studies Council, Inc.
2900 NE Indian River Drive
Jensen Beach, FL 34957

FALL 2023

Non-Profit
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Open House

The Environmental Studies Council will be hosting their Annual Open House On Sat., October 21 10am-1pm.

Come join us at the Environmental Studies Center for a great day of fun, learning and exploration. Enjoy crafts, snacks and touch tanks; visit with Joey the Alligator, Coral the Sea Turtle, and so much more!

Take a tour of our amazing new wet lab, thanks to Impact 100 Martin!

Cost is free and donations are accepted. See you there!



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<http://www.facebook.com/escmc>