



Field School
Research · Education · Exploration



6 day field course

Live and work aboard a 55' Research Vessel in South Florida

Ocean Science Communication Course

Is it your dream to be an advocate for the ocean?

Join Field School and guest instructor Dr. David Shiffman (@whysharksmatter) to learn about the most urgent threats facing ocean and coastal environments, the science that's helping to protect these magical places, and the animals that call them home. Learn critical techniques for effectively communicating about complex conservation topics with the public, build the skills to use a range of online tools including social media platforms and blogs to create exciting and educational public science engagement campaigns, and learn to construct effective communication strategies and pitch stories and ideas to media outlets.

Learn more and apply now at

www.GetIntoTheField.com

\$2350/student covers all field research activities room, board, and transportation once at the RV Garvin



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During your week on the RV Garvin you will engage in a combination of marine biology field work activities and environmental conservation and communication seminars, giving you the chance to learn about and experience marine ecosystems firsthand and to collect your own media to use in a series of science communication workshops and activities.

Science communication topics covered

- Principles of effective science communication
- Strategies for crafting communication and outreach campaigns
- Outreach and public education strategies
- The science-media cycle and engaging with traditional media outlets
- Creating valid evaluations of education and outreach programs
- Using key online tools for public engagement
- Career guidance and mentorship

Hands-on communication training

- Media training and practice interview sessions
- Setting up and populating professional social media accounts
- Setting up and populating professional science communication blog
- Final project with presentation at the end of the course on a science communication topic of your choice

Field Research Activities

- Basic field research and boating skills
- Basic snorkeling and freediving techniques
- Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) design, baiting and deployment
- Seine netting for juvenile fish and invertebrates
- Coral reef restoration
- Shark fishing and safe sample collection



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Preparing for your course

FLIGHTS

Students are welcome to arrive at the vessel at 11 am on the first day of the course. Course programming begins at 12 pm. The course will formally end by 2 pm on the last day, although we will plan to return to dock by noon. We advise booking flights no earlier than 4 PM that evening to give you some safety margin on our exact return time. If you are not sure about which flights to purchase, feel free to reach out to us. You will have an opportunity to share your travel plans and itinerary with us in a pre-trip form sent out approximately four weeks before the start of the course.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

South Florida weather is beautiful, but can be unpredictable. Our boat is freshly retrofitted and carefully maintained, but engine failure or other unexpected mechanical problems can occur. We strongly recommend that you purchase travel insurance in the event that the course needs to be cancelled, which is extremely unlikely but never impossible. If this happens you will of course receive a full refund for your course fees and we will provide you with the necessary documentation for receiving a refund on your flights.





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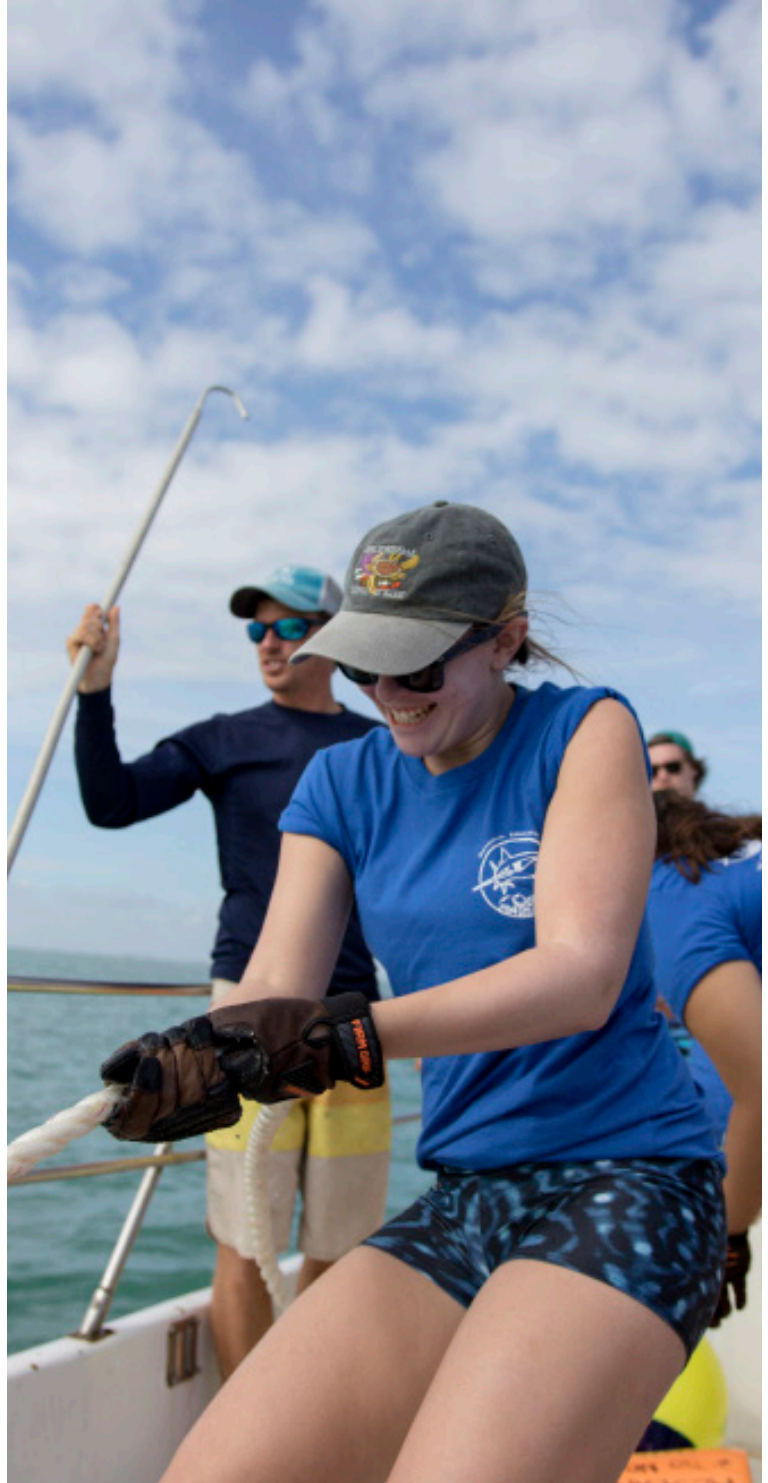
Preparing for your course

MEDICAL INSURANCE

We require that all participants in the course carry current health insurance coverage applicable within the US. We **highly recommend** that you purchase supplemental medical travel insurance. This is inexpensive and protects you and your family financially in the event of unexpected illness or injury.

It is often possible to combine travel/flight coverage with medical insurance for a trip, and comprehensive insurance coverage usually costs between \$100 and \$150. Diver's Alert Network (www.diversalertnetwork.org) and companies like Allianz are worth considering for this purpose, although you are welcome to use whatever insurer you wish.

Field School staff are trained to respond in the event of a medical emergency, and we do have a first aid kit on board for student use that contains essentials, but we also strongly encourage you to bring ibuprofen, seasickness tablets (we recommend bonine) and any other medications you may need, in addition to any necessary prescription medication. **If you have serious allergies or other medical conditions that may impact your safety and well-being while on the boat, please let us know.**





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What to Pack

The RV Garvin is a working Research Vessel, and so storage onboard and in sleeping quarters is at a premium. As such it is very important that you pack light and focus on essentials. In addition to essentials like toiletries, medications, and undergarments, we recommend the following:

- Functional swim wear (2-3)
- Shorts (2-3)
- Shirts (2-3)
- Rashguard or wetsuit (1-2)—you'll be snorkeling and a shirt/wetsuit can help keep you warm in the water, avoid jellyfish stings, and prevent sunburn
- Windbreaker/rain jacket (1)
- Pants, preferably of a fast drying material (1)
- Light long-sleeved shirt (1)
- Shoes: one pair of sandals and (required) one pair of close-toed rubber-soled shoes that you can securely attach to your feet
- 2 towels (1 beach towel/ 1 shower towel)
- Snorkel, mask and fins (if you have not opted to rent from us)
- Sunglasses (polarized preferred) and hat
- Sunscreen - consider buying reef safe options, particularly for the days which will be spent in water.
- Earplugs/eyemask, especially if you have difficulty sleeping with background noise—boat engines are not that quiet!





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A few other things to keep in mind when packing

All together everything should fit inside a larger backpack or small duffel bag. Hard or rolling suitcases are not recommended as there isn't a lot of space to store them and they're less convenient in the confines of a boat than smaller, more flexible bags.

You want to bring clothing that is comfortable for you to move and work in, and that you do not mind getting dirty (i.e., possibly ruined).

Remember that we will also have a field shirt for you when you arrive, which is yours to keep as part of your trip. Additional field shirts are also available for purchase.



Things we need from you

You will receive a link to upload the following information approximately four weeks before your course:

1. Signed and completed waivers (which will be sent out to you in about one month before the course start)
2. Dietary information, if any (vegetarian, vegan, allergies)
3. Medical information, if any (relevant medical conditions, allergies)
4. Flight and travel details
5. Proof of medical insurance





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A few frequently asked questions

More FAQs and info available here:

<http://www.getintothefield.com/what-courses-are-like>

Who may participate in this course?

Generally this course is for students 18+. Please sign up for our newsletter to hear about upcoming opportunities for younger students. There is no upper age limit on this course. We often host students who are changing careers or expanding their training for graduate school.

Can I receive course credit?

Field School does not offer academic course credit directly, but we are happy to provide whatever documentation your institution requires so that you may receive credit for independent study.

What species will we see and work with?

The array of collection techniques used during the course means we see a wide variety of species. Shark species encountered range from small bonnetheads to large bull sharks. We will also encounter and work with a huge variety of teleost fishes and invertebrates across mangrove, seagrass, and coral reef habitats.

How much money will I need for the one dinner out?

Although we work hard to keep you well fed during the week, we like to give our students the opportunity to experience some of the local culture. The dinner out is held at a locally owned and operated restaurant and price for dinner can easily be kept in the \$15-20 range.





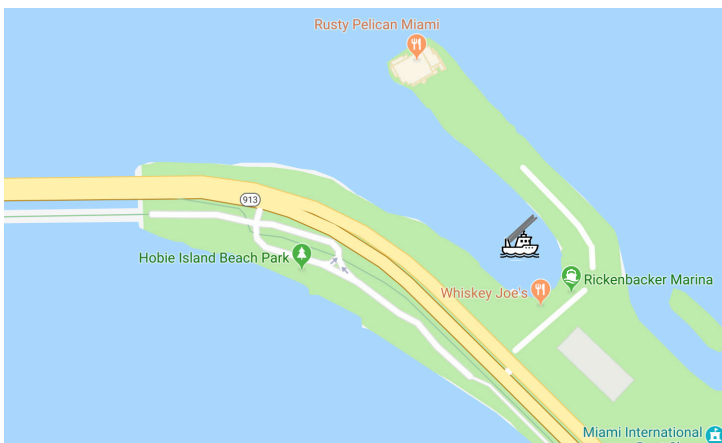
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How to find us

The RV Garvin is docked at Rickenbacker Marina located at 3301 Rickenbacker Causeway, Key Biscayne, FL 33149.

This area is easily accessible by taxi, Uber/Lyft, or public transportation from Miami International Airport. You may also want to check Ft. Lauderdale International Airport, which from some destinations can be considerably less expensive. Public transit and van share options are available to Miami at relatively low cost.



Once you turn into the marina, drive around past the restaurant. The entrance to Dock D will be on your left just past the jetski rack.

Once you arrive at the gate to Dock D, call our main line at (305) 925-0805 and press 0. Someone from our crew will meet you in the parking lot and will escort you to the RV Garvin.

