



**Field School**  
Research · Education · Exploration



6 day field  
course

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

Field School and the Florida National Parks Institute present

# Tropical Marine Biology and Ecology Field Research Course for Educators

This course is a specialized version of our Tropical Marine Ecology and Biology course open only to educators within the incredible ecosystems of Biscayne National Park. It provides teachers with hands-on marine science research experience and inspiration they can bring back into their classrooms!

A wide breadth of topics and ecosystems are covered in a short amount of time including visits, lectures, and activities in a variety of ecosystems including mangroves, seagrass beds, and coral reefs, with hands-on research experiences with sharks, tropical fishes, and marine debris.

Participating teachers are given access to a collection of materials, content and activities to help them translate what they've learned for their students and bring tropical marine ecosystems and their field experiences to life in the classroom!

Learn more and apply now at

[www.GetIntoTheField.com](http://www.GetIntoTheField.com)

\$2000/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 get hands-on experience in the widest array of field techniques possible. Our goal is to provide you with experiences and resources that can be translated into your work in education in order to bring environmental science and conservation to life for your students!

## Topics Covered

- Mangrove ecology and conservation
- Seagrass ecology, conservation and monitoring techniques
- Coral reef ecology, conservation, and restoration techniques
- Pelagic fish ecology, conservation, and research
- Shark ecology, conservation and research

## Boat Skills

- Knot tying, including bowline, cleat, tail rope
- Boat terminology
- Line handling and safety skills

## Field Research Skills

- Intermediate snorkeling and freediving techniques
- Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) construction, baiting and deployment
- Seine net deployment and species collection
- Tropical marine fish identification
- Coral reef identification, and monitoring and restoration techniques
- Quadrat construction and seagrass bed monitoring techniques
- Drumline fishing and safe sample collection from sharks

## Analytical Skills

- Data and sample collection and basic field sample processing
- BRUV footage review and behavioral observation recording
- Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
- Introduction to experimental design



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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 at 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. Once you have purchased flights, please send us your travel itinerary.

### 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](http://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 (We have some onboard but we cannot stress this enough - people often underestimate the strength of the Florida sun)
- 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

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
6. Shoe size (only if you are renting snorkel gear from us)





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## A few frequently asked questions

### **Who may participate in this course?**

This course is designed specifically for people working in education and is designed to create a community of people passionate about environmental education and to equip them with resources and experiences to bring back into the classroom. If you are interested in this course and are not an educator, please see our current open enrollment offerings on our website!

### **Can I receive professional development credit through this course?**

The Florida National Parks Association is a registered provider of professional development opportunities in Florida. Please reach out to discuss the process for receiving credit in your state!

### **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 arrive at the marina gate, 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.

If you are driving and need to park on site just let us know and a parking pass will be provided.

