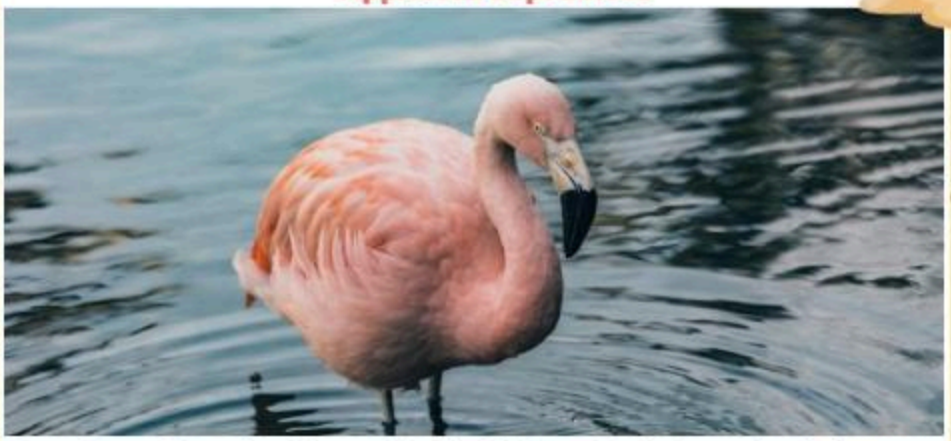
# Middle School Florida Keys Trip

## April 6–10, 2026 (Spring Break)

**Sponsored by Jessica O'Neal, in partnership with Appleseed Expeditions**



Located just a few miles offshore of the Florida Keys is North America's only living coral reef ecosystem. This reef is the third largest barrier reef in the world and provides habitats to an abundance of tropical marine organisms. Explore how the reef relates to the area's seagrass beds and mangrove habitats. Study ecological concepts as they relate to Marine Biology and observe marine flora and fauna in their natural habitats. We are going to have an amazing time!

**The total cost of the trip is $2490**

A $200 deposit is required to register, and the choice of monthly payments of $415 for six months, or one lump sum can be decided on an individual basis.

**IF YOU WISH YOUR CHILD TO ATTEND THIS TRIP, PLEASE JOIN ME IN MY CLASSROOM, MS 105 ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD AT 6PM FOR A PARENT INTEREST/REGISTRATION MEETING.**

What's included

- Tour Director
- Roundtrip airfare
- Ground transportation
- Accommodations
- Itinerary activities
- Meals
- Airline baggage fees
- Trip insurance

**Contact me at onealj@ehsbr.org**

# Itinerary

## Day 1 Arrival / Flamingo District in Everglades National Park

Hike the scenic trails of Flamingo in the Everglades and immerse yourself in its unique ecosystem. Along the way, discover the diverse wildlife, lush landscapes, and intricate waterways that define this one-of-a-kind habitat. Learn about the Everglades' vital role in supporting countless species and its importance to the environment.



## Day 2 Dolphin Research Center / Wild Bird Sanctuary

The Dolphin Research Center is a dolphinarium on Grassy Key, Florida. The 90,000-square-foot series of saltwater lagoons carved out of the shoreline is home to a family of dolphins and California sea lions.



Discover the rehabilitation efforts of a wild bird sanctuary. Over 16,000 injured and sick wild birds of different species have been cared for and released back into their natural habitat.




Shallow Bay Studies and fish identification will complete this day's marine adventure.

# Itinerary

## Day 3 Sea Turtle Hospital / Kayaking in the Mangroves



Visit Florida's only hospital for sick and injured sea turtles. Learn about the hospital's patients and discover the extraordinary care that is provided to these endangered creatures.



Learn about the importance of mangroves to the marine ecosystem while kayaking in the mangrove tributaries. See small nurse sharks, fish, and a variety of marine wildlife.

## Day 4 Snorkeling off a Catamaran / Key West



Enjoy a 2-hour boat trip on a beautiful catamaran off the blue-green waters of Key West! Snorkel with green sea turtles and coral reef fish.

Tour the southernmost point in Key West and catch one of their famous sunsets!

## Day 5 Volunteer at RCMA Children's Center / Travel home



Redlands Christian Migrant Association was born in 1965 to provide a safe haven for children of impoverished farmworkers in South Florida. Over the years, many volunteers have provided education and assistance to these families.

As a community service project, students will assist with projects such as homework assistance, reading programs, and/or light construction projects.