

AUER MARINE EDUCATION CENTER FIELD TRIPS



Our Mission

Tampa Bay Watch is dedicated to fostering a **healthy Tampa Bay watershed** through community-driven restoration projects, education programs, and outreach initiatives.

Your Experience

Join us for an unforgettable educational adventure at the **Tampa Bay Watch Auer Marine Education Center** in Tierra Verde, Florida. Our state-of-the-art facility offers a variety of field trip options designed to engage students in **hands-on marine science experiences**. Choose from or combine our interactive classroom labs, exciting boat-based programs, or seasonal water-based programs to design **the field trip of a lifetime**.

See below to learn more about our field trip options!



Our classroom labs provide immersive, **hands-on learning** in our modern classroom setting.



For a unique, field-based experience, board our **32-foot classroom vessel**, where students can observe birds, scan the bay for manatees and dolphins, and participate in citizen science initiatives. They can also sample the seagrass and count invertebrates alongside our marine biologists using a **research trawl net**.



Water-based programs are available seasonally, allowing students to **explore the underwater world of Tampa Bay**.

Questions? Contact education@tampabaywatch.org

CLASSROOM LABS

Invertebrate Investigation

Roll up your sleeves and get up-close and personal with the animals that live in the Tampa Bay estuary. Students interact with various invertebrates, practicing observation skills and scientific classification.



Microplastics

Best for 7th grade and up

Discover firsthand one of the leading threats to our oceans. Students collect and analyze local water samples for the presence of plastic. Data is contributed to the Florida Microplastic Awareness Project, which monitors the entire state of Florida.

Plankton Encounter

Investigate the vast amount of life within a water drop. Students collect and identify plankton using microscopes and learn about its role in ocean health.



Squid Dissection

Best for 5th grade and up

Immerse yourself in the world of mollusks. Students participate in a squid dissection to learn about their anatomy and unique adaptations.

Sea Turtle Nesting

Best for 6th grade and up

Become a sea turtle biologist for the day. Students engage in a mock sea turtle nest monitoring and excavation, learning about basic sea turtle ecology and conservation efforts.

Water Quality

Best for 6th grade and up

Learn about the basic chemical properties of water and how they impact marine life. Students use scientific tools to measure the quality of our local waters and submit their findings to Earth Echo International, a project that monitors the health of water across the globe.

BOAT-BASED PROGRAMS

*All boat-based programs include a research trawl (a gentle net is used to catch and release marine life for observation and data collection).

All About the Bay

Best for all ages and mixed grade groups

This tour is all about our favorite estuary: Tampa Bay! Learn about bay biology and observe wildlife such as birds and fishes.



WATER-BASED PROGRAMS

Seine the Bay

Best for 1st grade and up

Experience the Tampa Bay estuary like never before. Students venture into shallow seagrass beds and use scientific nets to collect and identify nearshore animals and discuss the relationships between our coastal habitats and their inhabitants.

Coastal Cleanup

Best for 4th grade and up

Reduce, reuse, recycle, and rethink your connection to our local waters. Students participate in a beach cleanup and submit their findings to the Ocean Conservancy's worldwide database. *Requires travel to Fort De Soto Park

Snorkel Tampa Bay

Best for 5th grade and up

Dive into the Tampa Bay estuary. Offered seasonally, students snorkel over sand flats and seagrass beds, taking an up-close look at the biodiversity within. With dip nets, animals are collected for observation.

Kayak Tampa Bay

Best for 6th grade and up

Paddle through pristine Shell Key Preserve which boasts rich mangrove forests, seagrass flats, and shallow waters teeming with marine life. Students learn introductory paddling skills while exploring the unique estuarine habitats.



PRICING

Program Type	Duration	Price	Class Size	Notes
Classroom Lab	75 min	\$200	25 participants	
Boat-Based Program	75 min	\$300	30 participants	
Water-Based Program: Seine the Bay	75 min	\$200	25 participants	
Water-Based Program: Snorkel Tampa Bay	3.5 hr	\$500	30 participants	
Water-Based Program: Kayak Tampa Bay	3.5 hr	\$500	28 participants	
Water-Based Program: Coastal Cleanup	75 min	\$200	25 participants	Requires travel to Fort De Soto Park

Payment

Payment must be made in full one week before the scheduled program date unless other arrangements are approved by a Tampa Bay Watch program coordinator.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations made more than 7 days before the scheduled date will be refunded 50% of the total invoice, minus a \$25.00 processing fee. Cancellations made less than 7 days before the scheduled date will not be refunded.

Tampa Bay Watch reserves the right to cancel scheduled field trips due to circumstances that are out of our control, including weather. In the unlikely event of cancellation, we will do our best to reschedule your experience. If we are unable to reschedule at a time that works for both parties, a full refund will be issued.



Ready to book?
[Click here](#) or scan the QR Code!