



Hello teachers! Mote is excited to welcome you back for the 2021-22 school year. We look forward to sharing the ocean and Mote research with you and your students.

All of our school programs are aligned with Florida State Science Standards to help students meet requirements on state assessment tests. Mote's goal is to use our world-class marine research to help students learn science concepts and inspire wonder about the world around us.

We will create a custom agenda for your school group based on your class size, arrival and departure time, and options you select during registration. Mote's school programs are one-hour in length, except for preschool programs which are 30 minutes in length. Admission to Mote Marine Aquarium and Marine Mammal Center is included. School programs are \$16 per student. Check out our [FAQ page](#) for more information and to plan your trip!

Mote Explorations

Mote Explorations are indoor programs for up to 25 students per session. A limit of 5 chaperones may attend per session due to classroom space.

Preschool

Turtle Tots Students will learn about the adventurous life of sea turtle hatchlings through song, stories and role-playing.

Snazzy Shark Teeth Students will become shark dentists! They will learn about shark mouths, teeth and feeding habits through storybooks, games and a hunt for shark's teeth.

Grades K-2

Our Dolphin Neighbors Scientists have been studying the local resident bottlenose dolphin population for more than 40 years. Through hands-on activities, students will discover what scientists are learning about the communication, feeding behavior, and human interactions with our dolphin neighbors.

Become A Scientist Students will investigate what it is truly like to be a scientist. We will transform your students into little marine scientists to discover a mystery animal. During this time, students will learn about the different tools and methods used by scientists.

Home Sweet Habitat Students will compare and contrast different ocean habitats including coral reefs, estuaries, and the deep sea. During this program students will use their senses and observation skills to learn about adaptations needed to survive in these habitats.



Grades 3-5

Angelfish to Zebra Shark: All About Fish During this interactive clue based program students will explore the characteristics of fish and special adaptations fish have. In the comfort of our Mote classroom students will use the scientific process to determine what the mystery animal might be. After the program students can explore the aquarium to find new fish friends.

Marine Inverts 101 Students will explore the diverse world of marine invertebrates through fun hands-on activities. During this program students will classify local inverts based on shared characteristics and adaptations.

Ocean Problem Solver During this STEM-based program students will learn why the ocean is important and how humans affect it. Students will explore Blue Holes recently discovered right here in our local oceans. Then using the engineering process, they will work in teams on solutions, building a model to collect samples deep in the ocean to learn more about these newly discovered features.

Making Sense of Sharks This program is all about sharks! Students will learn about the myths of sharks and their 'scary' personality. They will learn about shark anatomy and adaptations. The class will even learn about the amazing Dr. Eugenie Clark and how she trained these amazing creatures.

Planet H2O Discover the world of water through hands-on explorations of this unique substance. Students will perform mini experiments to hypothesize and investigate the water cycle. Although this program takes place in the classroom, be prepared to get a little wet during the water cycle experiments.

Grades 6-8

Shark Scientist Students will become Mote shark scientists in this interactive classroom program. They will learn the importance of shark research and the different techniques used by Mote scientists. They will be responsible for tagging a 'shark' as well as presenting their findings to the class.

Spineless Sea Students will explore marine taxonomy and various characteristics of invertebrates to learn what it takes to survive in the sea without a backbone. To apply their newfound knowledge, students will learn proper dissection techniques investigating squid in small groups.



Grades 9-12

Technology in Shark Research Students will explore the importance of technology in research, specifically shark research. Through hands-on activities with iPads and actual shark data, students will become comfortable with understanding and interpreting data as well as using technologies used by Mote scientists.

Turtle Tech Students will learn to review and analyze real turtle data. Working in groups, students will track a turtle and determine trends, habits or behaviors in the data. They will become comfortable with presenting their findings and their conclusions.

Field Explorations

Field Explorations are outdoor, water-based programs for up to 30 students per session. There is no chaperone limit for Field Explorations. We will create a custom agenda for your school group based on your class size, arrival and departure time, and options you select. Explorations are one-hour, except for preschool programs which are 30 minutes in length. All Explorations include admission to Mote Aquarium and Marine Mammal Center.

Grades Pre-K - 2

Exploring the Bay Come get wet and explore beneath the waters of Sarasota Bay. During this program we will use dip nets to find and learn about local critters in the bay. Pre-K program is 30 minutes, K-2 is one-hour. Students must arrive water-ready, find out what to wear and bring here.

Grades 3 - 12+

Field Sampling Techniques Students will be learning the importance of estuaries while collecting organisms that live in Sarasota Bay. During this experience-based learning program, students will get wet while wading in the bay, learning techniques for collecting data that later can be analyzed. Reach out to Brad Tanner at bradtanner@mote.org to learn all the cool ways this program can be incorporated into other disciplines/subjects back at school. This is a one-hour program. Students must come water-ready, find out what to wear and bring here.

+Field Sampling also available to College and Adult Learners. Experience is adjusted to be grade level appropriate.

For any questions, please reach out to Brad Tanner (Manager of School Programs) bradtanner@mote.org or phone (941) 388.4441 x351

Want Mote to come to you? Check out our [Mote in the Classroom](#) options, including outreaches, our award-winning Mote SEA Trek programs, and more!



Additional helpful information for planning your trip to Mote:

AQUARIUM AND MARINE MAMMAL CENTER

The tours of the Aquarium and Marine Mammal Center will be self-guided, however, there are trained volunteers stationed throughout our facilities to answer questions your group may have about the exhibits and animals. Please keep track of the time as there are many exhibits to experience! Be advised that we do not allow any food or drink (including candy or chewing gum of any kind!) in the Aquarium or Mammal Center. Please make sure that your students do not have disposable straws of any kind as they explore our exhibits (reusable water bottles are okay). Thank you for helping keep our Aquarium and Marine Mammal center clean and safe for our animal friends.

CHAPERONES

All school, organization, and camp groups are required to meet our minimum chaperone requirement. For Pre-K programs, you must have 1 chaperone for every 5 students. For K-12 programs, you must have 1 chaperone for every 10 students. Teachers are considered chaperones and are counted in the total chaperone count on field trip day. Chaperones are required to wear Mote chaperone stickers during your field trip. These will be handed out when you arrive and will assist Mote staff and volunteers to keep groups together throughout your trip.

Chaperones are expected to stay with their school groups for the entirety of their field trip, and are there to help teachers and Mote staff move students from area to area in a calm and organized manner, and to supervise children in all areas of Mote. Please ensure your group is being respectful of others who are visiting Mote, as well as to our displays and exhibits. We thank our visiting teachers and chaperones for their adherence to these guidelines.

GIFT SHOP

Only one chaperone-led group (of 5 students at a time) is allowed in the gift shops. There are many fragile items throughout the small shops and groups will be responsible for any broken items so please use caution if you decide to allow your students to visit the gift shop.

PARKING

Parking is free at Mote! Please circle our parking lot, past Save Our Seabirds, and unload and load your students along the sidewalk next to the picnic table areas. Your bus(es) may park there as well. Stopping to unload in front of the Aquarium is not permitted.



LUNCHES

Lunches brought for your field trip must be left in coolers on the bus. Please plan to retrieve lunches just prior to your scheduled lunch time. There are picnic areas throughout City Island, including just down the street from Mote at Ken Thompson Park, 1700 Ken Thompson Parkway. Please make sure your trash is disposed of properly.

RAINY DAY POLICY

Field trips are conducted under most weather conditions. We will contact you if your field trip needs to be rescheduled due to weather.

Water Programs (Exploring the Bay & Field Sampling Techniques)

What to Wear:

- Closed-toed, closed-heel water shoes, such as Crocs or SCUBA booties; students will NOT be allowed in the water barefoot
- Light-weight, comfortable clothes that dry quickly
- Swim suit if the weather is warm
- Jacket if the weather is cool
- Hats, sunglasses, sunscreen for sun protection are **STRONGLY** recommended

What NOT to Wear:

- Flip-flops
- Clothes that you want to keep dry or clean
- Jewelry

What to bring:

- Sunscreen
- Small towel
- Change of shoes
- Plastic bag or backpack

Weather & Other Environmental Factors

When possible, we will give schools at least 24 hours advance notice should weather or other environmental factors impact our area and prohibit us from going in the water. Schools will have the option of rescheduling their planned field trip or opting for an alternative classroom or lab program if conditions only affect water activities. Advanced notice may not always be possible. In those instances, Mote reserves the right to change, upon arrival, a water program to an indoor program for the health and safety of participants.

See your invoice email for additional information on our financial and billing policies.