



Crystal River: Florida Manatee Adventure



Learn Serve Inspire

CRYSTAL RIVER: Florida Manatee Adventure

5 DAYS

Price \$1435
Per Student

INCLUDED IN PROGRAM FEE:

- 24/7 Tour Manager
- Air/Coach transportation (with seatbelts)
- Quad accommodations in double rooms
- All Gratuities
- All activities
- On-site security guard
- Professional liability insurance
- Illness and accident coverage for all students
- Flexible payment plans
- 24 hour phone support
- Meals (excluding 1st and last lunch)
- T-shirts



Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge is comprised of several islands, surrounded by the crystal clear, spring-fed waters of Kings Bay. This sanctuary provides the perfect place for manatees to rest and feed undisturbed in the warmth of the springs. Students will have the chance to explore the Withlacoochee State Forest and its limestone caves that were formed by Florida's aquifers. The group will also spend time mentoring the children of central Florida's migrant workers. These children are often referred to as Florida's "Ghost Children". They may only be in one area for a short period of time before they are forced to move with their parents who are following seasonal crops for work.

Days 1 - 2 • Serve in Dade City

The group will volunteer these two days at the RCMA center in Dade City, FL. Here the students will have the opportunity to mentor migrant children through an after school program. Plan on helping with activities such as reading, games, coloring, planting vegetation, light construction, etc. After spending two days with the children at the RCMA center continue on to Crystal River, FL.

Day 3 • Snorkel Three Sisters Spring and Explore Kings Bay

Following breakfast, the group will explore the Kings Bay by boat looking for manatees and other aquatic wildlife and fauna. After being on the boats for a while we will do some snorkeling at Three Sisters Spring. Here students will learn about natural aquifer ecosystems and enjoy the cool water of one of Florida's springs. After

lunch the group will explore the Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park. Here the students will see a large variety of fresh and saltwater fish, manatees, turtles, and more through a floating observation platform called the "Fish Bowl". Following dinner students will participate in a night wade and conduct net pulls to study the nocturnal species found in the coastal marsh areas.

Day 4 • Kayaking Kings Bay and the Withlacoochee Caves - After breakfast the group will explore the river wildlife on a kayak tour. Here you may see bald eagles, herons, kingfishers, and variety of river inhabitants. After lunch tackle the Croom Hiking Trails of the Withlacoochee State Forest. The hiking trails in this area are dry to damp, all weather trails that wind through central Florida's long-leaf pine and scrub oak hills, live oak thickets, and hardwood hammocks.



Florida's "Ghost Children" - Come use your education, gifts, and talents to aid the children of central Florida's migrant workers through Applesed Expeditions' mentoring and tutoring programs.

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?" **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

If the caves in the area are available students may have a chance to go exploring and study a variety of cave dwelling insects and vertebrates. Students will also help with preservation and conservation efforts by conducting a clean-up project in the state forest. From here the group will head back to the hotel to get cleaned up for dinner. Following dinner students will head back to Tampa.

Day 5 • Journey Home

After breakfast pack up, check out of the hotel, and head to the airport for the flight home.



"Seeding a Revolution of Change Through Service"



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