

Field Trips

Jean Gentile

7/1/2008 to 2/27/2009

7/2/2008

Lunch with an Astronaut

History; USA & Florida

One of the most popular programs at Kennedy Space Center, "Lunch with an Astronaut" gives students a one-of-a-kind experience to meet a member of NASA's Astronaut Corps and get their autograph.

Held daily, these sessions offer an up-close and personal opportunity to share in the excitement of space exploration through the eyes and personal stories of one of NASA's best, all while enjoying a delicious meal. Young people will learn about the importance of schoolwork and setting goals to achieve their dreams.

An impressive roster of Astronauts have appeared since the program's inception in 2001, among them Wally Schirra, John Glenn, Jim Lovell, Gene Cernan, Walt Cunningham, Story Musgrave, Jon McBride and more.

7/3/2008

Surfside Safari

Science; Science - Grade 3

Spend an awe-inspiring day on a coastal barrier island in Fort Lauderdale! On the secluded and calm waters of the fresh water lagoon students master the skills of canoeing and explore the wonders of the barrier island. We'll follow a trail beneath the canopy of a coastal hammock and discover the secrets of survival that Native Americans and early settlers alike used to reap the bounty of these forests!

Journals that we provide allow students to become "real" scientists as they record the results of their activities. Working in teams, they survey the water samples they have collected and predict what plants and animals live in these ecosystems. Using the data, we'll wonder what impact humans have had on this natural place, looking for evidence of pollutants.

Heading out to the beachfront, we'll follow the footsteps of the Barefoot Mailman and hear the tales of his times. By collecting both natural and human-made items from the beach on our "scavenger hunt," students will begin to understand the importance of the coastal systems, the barrier islands, their plants and their animals...and what we must do to preserve them. We'll head back, reviewing our adventures with fascinating stories of the real Florida .

7/7/2008

Day at Dickinson

Science; Unit Study

Visit the area where legendary Quaker leader Jonathan Dickinson lived and where his shipwrecked party struggled to survive! Students voyage past the Jupiter Lighthouse to Hobe Mound, where they discover the endangered plants and animals of the Florida scrub, the first of many ecosystems we'll visit on our journey. Traveling through Jonathan Dickinson State Park, we'll see scrub give way to pine flatwoods. Gopher tortoises wander through the saw palmettos as we reach the canoe dock. After a brief lesson, we'll canoe the scenic Loxahatchee River, looking out for ospreys and viewing the effects of saltwater intrusion as we weave along the edge of the mangroves and study the bare spires of ancient cypress trees. We'll also learn all about Trapper Nelson: his unusual lifestyle, mysterious death and hidden treasure!

Next, we're off to one of the most unusual geologic formations on the coast: Blowing Rocks Preserve. Students will gaze into the tidal pools and blowholes carved by the roaring surf and observe the intertidal marine life of the coastal ecosystem. At high tide, we'll listen as the whooshing sound of water precedes the geyser-like spout...then continue searching along the coast for treasures washed ashore! Before heading home, we'll stop at the Marinelife Center on Juno Beach for an in-depth study of sea turtles on their way to recovery. What an incredible opportunity to observe these elusive marine animals.