



## Memorandum

**TO: County Extension Offices, 4-H Agents, Leaders**  
**FROM: Karen Blyler, Coordinator, Marine Education**  
**RE: 2009 4-H State Marine Ecology Event**

### When and Where

Greetings! This memo provides the rules/guidelines for the 2009 State Marine Ecology Event (MEE). The MEE will be held on Saturday, November 14 at the Osceola County Extension Office in Kissimmee, FL. The Extension office is located in the Osceola Heritage Park.

For more information and directions go to: <http://www.ohpark.com/flash-intro/index.html>.

### Who Can Compete?

Three 4-H age divisions may compete in the MEE: Juniors (8-10 years old), Intermediates (11-13 years old), and Seniors (14-18 years old). All will compete in the same five sections of the MEE but each age division will have different sets of study materials. Where possible, contest materials will be tailored to fit each division.

**Please note:** Seniors who have won a first place in past events ARE eligible to compete again. Once a Senior 4-H member has won first place twice, they are no longer eligible to compete in the MEE. However, they are welcome to come to the MEE and be a 4-H helper.

### What are the Entry Fees?

The registration/entry fee for this year's MEE is \$10 per youth. This fee covers facility use, entry processing, insurance fees, and some materials/supplies needed to hold the MEE. Team entry fees are based on the number of individuals on each team. (Example: If a team is composed of three 4-H members, their entry fee is \$30.00. If a team is composed of four members, the entry fee is \$40.00.) Please fill in Section A of the Registration form with this information.

**Deadline to register is Friday, October 30, 2009! Registration forms can be obtained by going to [http://florida4h.org/projects/marine/state\\_mee.shtml](http://florida4h.org/projects/marine/state_mee.shtml)**

## Share Tables

This year we would like to offer club leaders and youth an opportunity to share their resources, project ideas and/or accomplishments in marine science, their MEE preparation activities, or any other marine related information that would be of interest to those that come to the event. Displays should be no larger than what can sit on half of a six foot table. If your group would like some table space, please indicate this on the MEE registration form.

## Photography Contest

Also during the MEE, photographs taken by 4-H youth as part of the Marine and Aquatic Photography Contest will be on display. For more information on this contest go to the website [http://florida4h.org/projects/marine/state\\_photocontest.shtml](http://florida4h.org/projects/marine/state_photocontest.shtml)

## Adult/Youth Volunteers

Family members are welcome and encouraged to come to the MEE and even volunteer! However, only designated volunteers will be allowed in the contest area during the actual MEE. NOTE: Counties interested in finding out more about the MEE but not entering any youth, may send "observers" to the event. All "observers" must check in and receive special passes into the contest area. After the competition portion has ended, all are welcome to visit the contest area and examine the specimens for fun or practice.

Note: There is NO registration fee for adults/volunteers but we do ask that they be included in the headcount for total attendance. Counties should complete Section C of the MEE Registration Form and provide these numbers.

## Lodging Arrangements

If your group requires lodging for Friday and/or Saturday night a block of rooms has been reserved at the Quality Inn Heritage Park located near the Osceola Extension office. A special group rate of \$46 per room per night (for up to 4 people in a room with 2 double beds) is available for those coming to the MEE. For hotel reservations call 877-586-8080 or (407)846-4545. When booking a room at the Quality Inn, please let the hotel know that you want the "4H Youth Development rate."

NOTE: This rate applies only to those room reservations made prior to October 31<sup>st</sup>. After this date the rate may no longer hold. So make your reservations early!

## Other lodging options include:

**1. Ponderosa Park RV Resort** . This resort is close to the Osceola Extension office. It has a swimming area and pets on a leash are ok. It also has a tent area for group camping. The address is 1983 Boggy Creek Road, Kissimmee, FL. Their phone number is 407-847-6002. Their web site is <http://www.ponderosarpark.com/>

The approximate rates are as follows: For RV's it is \$29 based on 2 people (includes tax) and \$1-\$2 for each extra person depending on age of additional occupants. Tent sites are \$20 for two people (includes tax) and \$1-\$2 for each extra person depending on age. Sites can be reserved but often fill up in November, so please don't wait!

**2. East Lake Fish Camp.** This facility is about 20 minutes away. The address is 3705 Big Bass Road, Kissimmee, Florida 34744-9376. For reservations call 407-348-2040. It has about 24 cabins on the property (with microwave and fridge). Each can hold up to five people. However, the cost is comparable to a hotel. One to two people is \$65. Each additional person is \$5 extra dollars (plus 13% tax). RV hook-ups are \$22 (based on two people) plus \$1 for each additional person up to six. (Six people would be \$28 plus tax per night). Tent space is also available. Tent sites are available for \$19 based on two people. Each additional person is \$1. Each site may hold two tents and up to six people total/site or \$23 plus tax per night. Its website is:

<http://www.eastlakefishcamp.net/index.html>

**3. Southport Park.** This park/campground is about 45 minutes away from the Extension office. Its address is 2001 E. Southport Road, Kissimmee, Florida 34746. Their number is 407-9335822. Its web site is: <http://www.bcairboats.com/accomodations.shtml>

**4. Vacation Home/Rental in Kissimmee** – Search the web!

## Lunch Tickets

We encourage all that come to the MEE to buy lunch tickets. Lunches on site are \$6.00 per person. These tickets **MUST** be purchased beforehand. The number of tickets needed should be clearly marked on the registration form. The person in charge of the county group/teams is responsible for checking the group in and picking up any lunch tickets purchased. Counties may also bring their own lunches.

**We hope your county can organize some teams (or even individuals!) to participate in the State Marine Ecology Event. Thank-you and we hope to see you there!**

# 2009 STATE MARINE ECOLOGY EVENT

## LIST OF STUDY MATERIALS

The following information lists the materials youth should use to prepare for this event. Please read carefully as new study materials have been added.

- Event Guidelines and Description of Study Materials (this document)
- Study Materials as follows
  1. Marine Organism Identification List for Juniors
  2. Marine Organism List for Intermediates/Seniors
  3. Lesson 4: Coastal Ecosystems (Intermediates & Seniors only)
  4. Special Topic Website: Marine Arthropods (Intermediates/Seniors only)
  5. Senior Multiple Choice Study Questions
  6. Intermediate Multiple Choice Study Questions
  7. Junior Multiple Choice Study Questions
  8. Answer Key for all Multiple Choice Questions
  9. Species Identification Guide CD \* (2007 version)
  10. Species Identification Companion Guides (supports the CD - one for Juniors, separate one for Intermediates/Seniors)

You can obtain the guidelines and study materials (except the CD) by e-mail or through the Florida 4-H website at: [http://florida4h.org/projects/marine/state\\_mee.shtml](http://florida4h.org/projects/marine/state_mee.shtml)

Also on the web are preparation aides such as overview of the MEE, flashcards, sample answer sheets, and more.

If you have any difficulty downloading the event materials or any questions, please contact Karen Blyler at the State 4-H Office by calling (352) 846-0996, extension 246 or e-mail her at [kblyler@ufl.edu](mailto:kblyler@ufl.edu).

\*NOTE: This CD can be obtained by contacting Karen at the State 4-H office. Please provide name and mailing address.

**LEADERS please note:** Each entered youth should bring pencil(s) and clipboard to the MEE.

Leaders: If you are interested in volunteering to help at the MEE, please contact Karen Blyler at 352-846-0996 (or email her at [kblyler@ufl.edu](mailto:kblyler@ufl.edu)).

### Other resources that might be helpful:

**Reference Books:** The following references can be used to help identify various organisms with photographs or slides. These references also provide additional information on natural history and habitat preferences.

1. National Audubon Society Nature Guides: Atlantic & Gulf Coasts, by W. Amos and S. Amos, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1997
2. Peterson Field Guides: Southeastern and Caribbean Seashores, by E.H. Kaplan, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1988
3. Fishing Lines: Angler's Guide to Florida Marine Resources, by Department of Environmental Protection. This can now be downloaded off their web site - go to <http://marinefisheries.org/guide.htm>

### **Marine Science Textbooks:**

4. Marine Science by Thomas F. Greene. AMSCO Publications, New York, 1998
5. Marine Biology by Herbert Webber and Harold V. Thurman. Harper Collins Publisher, 1991
6. Marine Biology by Peter Castro and Michael E. Huber, Mosby Year Book, 1992

NOTE: Each county may duplicate the information included in this packet as needed but please remember that the Marine Ecology CD does have copyrighted material (as well as the reference and text books.)

# FLORIDA 4-H

## 2009 STATE MARINE ECOLOGY EVENT

### GUIDELINES

#### I. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENT ACTIVITIES FOR MARINE ECOLOGY EVENT

NOVEMBER 14, 2009

Check-in	8:30 am - 9:15 am
Volunteer assignments	9:00 am - 9:15 am
Introduction to Event	9:15 am - 9:45 am
Event	9:45 am - 12:00 noon
Lunch	12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
Recognition Program	1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Teams and individuals participating in the contest must be on the grounds and checked-in before the event begins at 9:15 a.m. Check-in is between 8:30-9:15 a.m. on that Saturday. Late arrivals will not be able to compete once the event has started.

#### II. EVENT PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Participation in the 4-H Marine Ecology Event is open to all 4-H club members, special interest groups or school enrichment groups. The only requirement is that all participants be enrolled in 4-H. Enrollment forms can be obtained at the nearest County Extension Office or by calling the local 4-H agent.

Competition in the event is by teams divided into Junior, Intermediate, and Senior levels. Juniors must be between the ages of 8 and 10, Intermediates between the ages of 11 and 13, and Seniors between the ages of 14 and 18 by September 1 of the current program year. Each team may consist of a total of four members, but only the three highest scores of each team are counted in scoring the event (the lowest score is dropped). Therefore, a team may be composed of only three members if a fourth is unavailable.

**PLEASE NOTE:** There will be NO merging of teams between two counties because of lost members. If a team no longer has enough members to remain a team, the remaining youth will compete as individuals. To help prevent this from happening, it is suggested that county teams have alternates (individuals) to replace a team member that does not show up for the Event. Note: Individual 4-H youth are also eligible to enter the MEE and compete (without being a member of a team). A team member is also considered an individual within the competition.

Each county may send two junior teams, two intermediate teams, and two senior teams to compete in the state event. This may require some form of county contest to determine the representatives for those counties that have more junior, intermediate and/or senior level participants.

### **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!**

**Registration deadline for the MEE is October 30, 2009.** The entry/registration fee is \$10.00 per youth. Lunch tickets can be purchased for \$6.00/person. A registration form is included in this packet. If it is not, you may download the registration form off the 4-H website and mail/fax it in. Fax is 352-846-0999. Pre-registration is required so that we can determine the number of people coming and the number of lunches needed. Please indicate clearly on the registration form the names of youth that will be entering the Event, the number of additional people that will be attending, how many lunches your group will need, and the total amount you will be paying.

**All checks for entry fees and lunches should be made payable to the Florida 4-H Foundation and sent in with the registration form.** Send registration forms, participation forms, and checks to: 4-H Events Office, PO Box 110225, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-0225. Mark it to the attention of the "MEE". FAXES are no longer accepted.

### **III. DESCRIPTION OF EVENT SECTIONS AND FORMAT**

During the event, participants will compete in the following areas.

**Section 1 - Identification of Marine and Coastal Plants in Florida**

**Section 2 – Identification of Marine Invertebrates of Florida**

**Section 3 - Identification of Marine Vertebrates of Florida**

**What Youth will need:** For these three sections youth should study/know the plants and animals listed on the Marine Organism Identification List. Pictures of these organisms are in the Marine Ecology Event Species Identification CD. To help youth learn how these organisms are identified, they should use the Species ID Companion Guide. Juniors have a separate Guide from Intermediates and Seniors. The Companion Guide can be downloaded off the 4-H website.

Real specimens should be used whenever possible because it makes for a better (and more fun) learning experience! Youth will be required to identify a total of 55 to 60 specimens on display. This includes 15-20 plants, 20-25 invertebrates, and 20-25 vertebrates. There will be 1 point per identified specimen, for a total of 55 - 70 points for all three sections.

#### **Section 4 – Natural History Scavenger Hunt**

This section focuses on the natural history of selected organisms found on the species list. This information can be found in the Species Identification Companion Guide after the **“Did You Know?”** question. Not all organisms on the list will have this additional information. This information will highlight unique features, interesting behavior, unusual lifestyles, etc., for the selected organisms and will be turned into descriptive “clues” for Section 4.

On site, youth will be given a sheet of approximately 15-25 clues that will need to be “matched” with a photo or actual specimen in the room. A sample clue sheet(s) can be downloaded off the 4-H MEE website. Each correctly matched clue will be worth one point for a total of 15-25 points depending on the age group. Note: Juniors will only be required to learn about the natural history of the organisms found on their species list.

#### **Section 5 - Multiple Choice Study Questions on Concepts & Special Topic/Issue**

The **first part** of this section will include a selection of approximately 25 multiple choice questions taken from the original set of multiple choice study questions provided, but different for each age level. To help youth further research the answers for the multiple-choice questions they should use the "additional resources" mentioned in the "Study Materials" document.

#### **The second part of Section 5 will only be for Intermediates and Seniors.**

This part will include an additional 10-15 questions selected from two other pieces of study materials. The first is "Lesson 4 – Coastal Ecosystems: Beach, Estuary, Marsh, and Swamp (from Marine and Aquatic Ecosystems Leader's Guide). The other is a document with a set of study questions on selected marine arthropods/crustaceans. The answers can be obtained by going to the website listed on the sheet. (1 point/question, total for section is 35-40 points.)

The total possible score for all five sections will be approximately 100-130 points depending on age group. Separate contests will be given for juniors, intermediates, and senior divisions. In some cases, the same specimens may be used for all divisions; however, more specific species identification will be asked of older 4-H'ers.

## IV. RECOGNITION

Team Awards - Senior, Intermediate, and Junior Divisions

1<sup>st</sup> Place Medals plus scholarship to Marine Camp\*

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Medals

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Medals

Individual Awards - in Senior, Intermediate, and Junior Divisions

1<sup>st</sup> High Score Medal plus scholarship to Marine Camp\*

2<sup>nd</sup> High Score Medal

3<sup>rd</sup> High Score Medal

All entered youth will receive certificates of participation.

\*A first place county team will receive a \$100 scholarship for marine education. This scholarship can be used to defer costs for marine camp registration for one or more team members or be used for some other pre-approved marine education activity (through State 4-H office). Counties can divide scholarship monies up as needed. First place individual winners receive a \$50 scholarship for marine education. This money can be used toward marine camp registration or for some other pre-approved marine education activity for that individual.

**Awarded Scholarships must be used within one year or they will expire.**

NOTE: All participants are considered individuals and therefore a team member can win an individual award as well as a team award. Announced winners will be final. Pictures may be taken during and after each presentation.