



Memorandum

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

2010 Guidelines and Information

When and Where

Greetings! This memo provides the guidelines for the 2010 State Marine Ecology Event (MEE). The MEE will be held on Saturday, November 6 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?

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 your County Extension Office.*) Three 4-H age divisions compete: Juniors, Intermediates, and Seniors. Juniors must be between the ages of 8 and 10, Intermediates between 11 and 13, and Seniors between 14 and 18 by September 1st of the current program year. All levels 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 age division.

4-H youth compete in teams and as individuals. 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. 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.

Please note the following rules concerning the contest:

- Teams from two different counties are not allowed to merge 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 fails to show up/check-in for the MEE. Note: Individual 4-H members are also eligible to enter the MEE and compete. A team member is also an individual within the competition.
- Seniors who have won a first place award in past events are eligible to compete again UNLESS they have won a first place award TWICE either as an individual or as a team member. If so, they are no longer eligible to compete in the MEE. However, they are welcome to come to the MEE and be a special volunteer helper.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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 for 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.

Lunch Tickets - We encourage all that come to the MEE to buy lunch tickets. Lunches on site are \$6.50 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.

Share Tables - Club leaders and youth are encouraged to bring a small display to highlight their resources, project ideas, club accomplishments in marine science, etc., with others at 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.

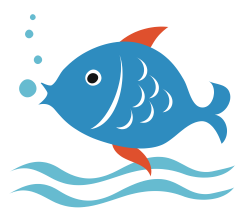
Adult/Youth Volunteers - Family members are welcome and encouraged to come to the MEE and even volunteer! However, only designated volunteers will be allowed in the contest area during the actual MEE. NOTE: Counties interested in finding out more about the MEE but not entering any youth, may send “observers” 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.

There is **NO registration fee for adults and/or 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.

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.

Deadline to register is Friday, October 22, 2010! All registrations must be received by the State Events Office by 5:00 pm on this date. Faxes are no longer accepted. A county’s registration form must go through the county’s Extension office and be approved before being sent. Only one registration form per county should be sent in. County participation forms must also be sent.

All checks for entry fees and any lunches should be made payable to the Florida 4-H Foundation and mailed 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." **Registration forms can be obtained online at: http://florida4h.org/projects/marine/state_mee.shtml**



Photography Contest - Photographs taken by 4-H youth who have entered the Marine and Aquatic Photography Contest will be on display at the MEE. For more information on this contest or how to enter it, please go to: http://florida4h.org/projects/marine/state_photocontest.shtml

Lodging Arrangements

If your group requires lodging for Friday and/or Saturday night a block of rooms has been reserved at the Heritage Park Inn (formerly Quality Inn) 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 (407)846-4545. When booking a room at the Heritage Park Inn, please indicate you want the "4H Youth Development" rate. NOTE: This rate applies only to those room reservations made prior to October 24th. After this date the rate may no longer hold. So make your reservations early!

Other options:

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.ponderosarvpark.com/> Rates for RVs are around \$30 based on two people 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. The number is 407-9335822. Its web site is: <http://www.bcairboats.com/accomodations.shtml>

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

2010 FLORIDA 4-H STATE MARINE ECOLOGY EVENT

Description of Event and Materials

I. TENTATIVE EVENT SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 6, 2010

Check-in	8:30 am - 9:00 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 between 8:30-9:00 a.m. Late arrivals will not be able to compete once the event has started.

Note: Each participant should bring pencil(s) and a clipboard to the MEE. If you are interested in volunteering to help, please contact Karen Blyler at 352-846-0996 (or email kblyler@ufl.edu).

II. EVENT SECTIONS AND FORMAT

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

Description: For these sections youth should be able to identify the plants and animals listed on the Marine Organism ID List. Pictures of these organisms are on the MEE Species Identification CD. To help youth learn how these organisms are identified, use the Species ID Companion Guide. Juniors have a separate Guide from Intermediates and Seniors. The Companion Guide can be downloaded from 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. Each correctly identified specimen is worth 1 point 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 marine life 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 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 is **only for Intermediates and Seniors**. Approximately 10 -15 questions on the “test” will come from **Lesson 5** and this year’s **Special Topic/Issue**. Lesson 5 is on **Coral Reefs and the Open Ocean** (from Marine and Aquatic Ecosystems Leader's Guide). The “special topic” this year will be on the impacts from the **Gulf Oil Spill**. On the 4-H MEE website there are three NOAA fact sheets plus a set of study questions related to the oil spill. Youth should read over the fact sheets and be able to answer the questions. (This section = 1 point per question, thus total for section is 35-40 points.)

Total Scores: 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 age divisions; however, more specific species identification will be asked of older 4-H’ers.

III. RECOGNITION

Team Awards - Senior, Intermediate, and Junior Divisions

1st Place Medals plus scholarship to Marine Camp or related educational program*

2nd Place Medals

3rd Place Medals

Individual Awards - in Senior, Intermediate, and Junior Divisions

1st Place Medal plus scholarship to Marine Camp or related educational program*

2nd Place Medal

3rd Place Medal

* All first place **county teams** receive a \$100 scholarship. This scholarship can be used to defer costs for marine camp registration for one or more team members OR be used for some other approved marine education activity for those members. Counties can divide scholarship monies up as needed. (Activity must first be approved through 4-H State Office.)

*All first place **individuals** receive a \$50 scholarship for marine education. This money can be used toward marine camp registration or for some other approved marine education activity for that individual. (Activity must first be approved through 4-H State Office.)

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. **Awarded Scholarships must be used within one year or they will expire.** All are welcomed to take pictures during and/or after each award presentation.

All youth who have completed the contest receive **Certificates of Participation.**

2010 STATE MARINE ECOLOGY EVENT

LIST OF STUDY MATERIALS

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

- Marine Organism Identification List for Juniors
- Marine Organism List for Intermediates/Seniors
- Lesson 5: Coral Reefs and the Open Ocean (Intermediates & Seniors only)
- Special Topic – Oil Spill Impacts: 3 NOAA fact sheets w/ questions (Intermed/Seniors)
- Senior Multiple Choice Study Questions
- Intermediate Multiple Choice Study Questions
- Junior Multiple Choice Study Questions
- Answer Key for all Multiple Choice Questions
- Species Identification Guide CD * (2007 version)
- Junior Species Identification Companion Guides (supports the CD)
- Intermediate and Senior Companion Guides (supports the CD)

You can obtain the guidelines and these study materials (except the CD*) through the Florida 4-H website at: http://florida4h.org/projects/marine/state_mee.shtml

In addition, the website has links to preparation aides such as an 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.

*NOTE: The CD can be obtained by contacting e-mailing or calling Karen at the State 4-H office . Please provide your name and mailing address.

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:

1. Marine Science by Thomas F. Greene. AMSCO Publications, New York, 1998
2. Marine Biology by Herbert Webber and Harold V. Thurman. Harper Collins Publisher, 1991
3. 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.)

Helpful Websites

Florida Fish And Wildlife Conservation Commission:

- http://myfwc.com/WILDLIFEHABITATS/SpeciesInfo_index.htm
- http://myfwc.com/WILDLIFEHABITATS/Habitat_index.htm

Florida Museum of Natural History

- <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/southflorida/pisces.html>
- <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/>