

What others have to say about LIFE

“More than 3,300 future scientists and environmental stewards have participated in the LIFE program since 2004, and we look forward to inspiring even more in the future.”

Michael W. Sole,
Former Secretary,
Department of Environmental Protection

“We are excited about the environmental science opportunities for our students . . . Conducting hands-on experiments and real life research right in the environment is a terrific benefit for our students.”

Dr. Joseph Joyner,
Superintendent, St. Johns County Schools

“Thanks for everything you all have done to support this awesome program.”

Keith Hatcher
Principal, Fort White High School

“This experience fosters students’ environmental stewardship of our natural resources while supplementing their current school curriculum.”

Jo Ann Gander
Superintendent, Franklin County Schools

“I have learned that through engaging and exploring, students can grasp scientific information and internalize these concepts because of the real world experiences they are involved in because of our program.”

Irene “Trini” Johannesen
Middle School Science Teacher
Fort White Middle School

How to support the LIFE Program:

- Become a partner educator at an existing LIFE Program site.
- Host a field experience at your park or research station.
- Support travel costs to bring students to the field.
- Support professional development activities for teachers.
- Sponsor a field lab activity.

For more information on how you can support science education in Florida’s environment contact:

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Environmental Education
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS-30
Tallahassee, FL 32399
<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/secretary/ed/default.htm>
Phone: 850.245.2145



Mimi Drew, FDEP Secretary



Science, Service, and Stewardship

What is the LIFE Program?

Learning in Florida's Environment (LIFE) is a model for science-based environmental education on public conservation lands.

Each program represents a partnership between the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and a school district to bring students outdoors to learn science.

The goal of each LIFE Program site is increased student achievement and teacher professional development in science education.

The LIFE Program is not a curriculum, but a process for reinforcing and enriching the existing curriculum through hands-on, field labs facilitated by educators, scientists, and land/resource managers.



A student records data during a field experience at the FSU Marine Lab.



Two students measure the slope of the shoreline at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge.

What are the characteristics of the LIFE Programs?

Each site is tailored to local priorities and the unique environmental setting of the area, but all share a core set of guiding principles:

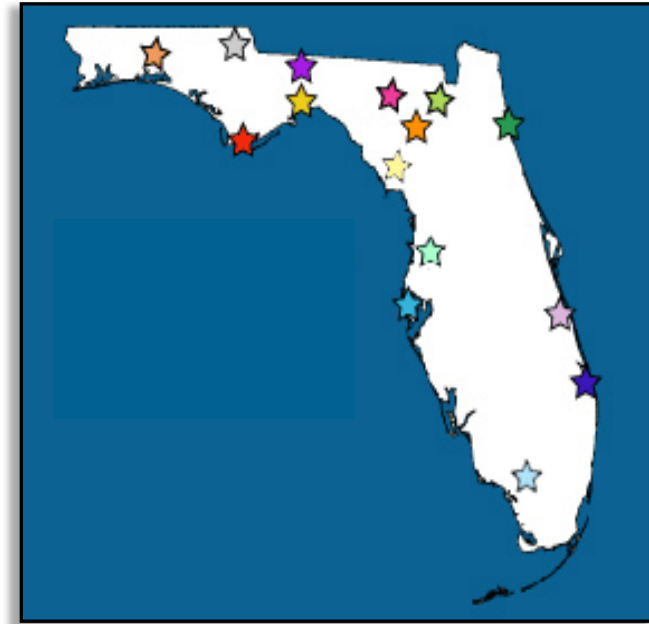
1. **Program content is co-developed** by teachers and DEP staff based on needs.
2. Students participate in **multiple field experiences** during the school year.
3. **Best practices** in environmental and science education are applied at each site.
4. Continuous **teacher professional learning** is an integral part of the program.
5. Each site represents a **long-term commitment** between DEP and a school district.
6. **Service learning** is strongly encouraged.
7. Field labs **integrate all subjects** and are **aligned to the existing curriculum and standards**.
8. Schools with the **greatest need and strongest interest** are prioritized.
9. Field labs incorporate **real-world technology**
10. **Cultural competency** is emphasized in program design and delivery.



Teachers learn field equipment from DEP education staff

Where is the LIFE Program?

The LIFE program began in Apalachicola with its first partnership in 2004 with Franklin County Schools. Today there are fifteen LIFE sites throughout the state.



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| Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve | Ichetucknee Springs |
| Collier County | Lake City |
| Edward Ball Wakulla Springs | Leon Sinks Geological Area |
| Fanning Springs | Madison County |
| Florida Caverns | Okaloosa County |
| Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve | Savannas Preserve |
| Honeymoon Island | St. Sebastian River Preserve |
| | Werner Boyce Salt Springs State Park |