

## Students, Volunteers, and Experts Collaborate to Gather Data on Estuary Health During Seventh Annual ORCA's A Day in the Life of the Indian River Lagoon

**Indian River Lagoon, FL—October 2024**— The Ocean Research & Conservation Association (ORCA) is excited to announce the 7th annual "A Day in the Life of the Indian River Lagoon" (ADIL) on October 30, 2024. This event brings together students, teachers, volunteers, and environmental experts to gather essential water quality data and biological inventories across key sites along the 156-mile lagoon. ADIL, designed for students in grades 4-12, inspires a deeper understanding of the lagoon's ecosystem while addressing its environmental stressors. Participants will engage in hands-on research, measuring key parameters such as temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, pH, and nutrient concentrations like nitrate and phosphate. The data is publicly accessible, and educators are encouraged to integrate it into classroom lessons, science fairs, and ongoing research.

Approximately 9,000 teachers, students, and citizen scientists have participated in this collaborative effort over the years. This year, ADIL will involve over 2,000 students from 39 schools, working with nearly 30 environmental organizations to foster stewardship and deepen understanding of the lagoon's ecological health. According to Missy Weiss, ORCA's Director of Citizen Science, "Programs like ADIL empower students to engage with their environment and understand how their local piece of the estuary contributes to the larger ecosystem."

**WHEN: Wednesday, October 30, 2024** \*NEW DATE\* Changed to due to Hurricane Milton

**WHERE: At 50 waterfront locations along the Indian River Lagoon: Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, and Palm Beach**

**Counties** (Times vary. For specific times and sampling locations, please contact Lauren Tracy at [Ltracy@teamorca.org](mailto:Ltracy@teamorca.org) or call 772-562-9052)

### Our 2024 partners include:

Bailiwicks Enrichment Campus, Barrier Island Sanctuary, Beachland Elementary, Brain Lab, Brevard County, Brevard County Natural Resources, Brevard Homeschoolers, Clark Advanced Learning Center, Coastal Connections, Cocoa Beach High School, Deland High School, Eco Scouts, Ecological Associates, Edgewood Junior-Senior High School, Environmental Learning Center, Environmental Resource Division Martin County, Environmental Studies Center, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Institute of Technology, Florida Oceanographic Society, FWS, Galileo School for Gifted Learning, Gifford Middle School, Heritage High School, Hobe Sound Nature Center, Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy, Indian River County Stormwater Division, Indian River State College, Jensen Beach Elementary, John Carroll High School, Learning Forward Education Center, Manatee Center, Marine Discovery Center, Marine Resource Council, Marine Science Center, Marine Oceanographic Academy at Forest Grove Middle School, Martin County High School, Melbourne High School, Modern Minds, New Smyrna Beach High School, One Lagoon, Pelican Island Audubon, Redeemer Lutheran School, River Center Loxahatchee River District, Rockledge High School, Save the Manatee Club, Sea Park Elementary School, Sebastian Charter Junior High, Sebastian River High School, Smithsonian Marine Station, St. Andrews Episcopal Academy, St. Edwards Upper School, St. Lucie Homeschoolers, St. Lucie West Centennial High School, St. Marks Academy, Stella Maris Environmental Research, Stetson University, Stetson's Institute of Water & Environmental Resilience, Storm Grove Middle School, Sun Grove Montessori, Sunlight Christian Academy, Surfrider, The Nature Conservancy at Blowing Rocks Preserve, The Pine School, UF/IFAS 4H, UF/IFAS Sea Grant, Vero Beach Elementary School, Vero Beach High School, and Volusia County Schools Environmental STEM Education

A Day in the Life is possible with support from project sponsors: Bernard A. Egan Foundation, Inc., Florida Power & Light Company, through its charitable arm the NextEra Energy Foundation, Glenn W. Bailey Foundation, The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation, and Quail Valley Charities.

ADIL is one of four citizen science projects at ORCA, a Vero Beach-based non-profit organization focused on preserving the Indian River Lagoon through science, restoration, advocacy and education. For more information, visit [www.teamorca.org](http://www.teamorca.org)

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