

Dear Educators,

As a reflection of Marine Discovery Center's mission to restore and protect Florida's Coastal and Indian River Lagoon ecosystems, we strive to educate adults and children on the important role we all play in conservation.

One way we do this is by partnering with local schools to help us connect students to the wonders of the natural world through our hands-on, feet-wet educational programs.

Nominations are now open for the Aaron Klothe Scholarship, a fund that was created to honor the memory of former Marine Discovery Center camper Aaron Klothe and his love for wildlife and outdoor recreation. This fund provides financial assistance for underserved youth to participate in marine science programs at MDC.

All Volusia County Title I Elementary and Middle School students are eligible through educator nomination. This scholarship is intended for students who would not have the ability to access this experience without financial assistance.

The scholarship includes one week at Marine Discovery Center's 2024 Summer Adventure Camp where students will explore environmental stewardship through the lens of the Indian River Lagoon.

Activities include a cruise to Disappearing Island on our pontoon boat, "Discovery", as well as fishing, kayaking, salt marsh exploration and gaining a better understanding of our coastal ecosystems through curriculum-based programming.

To nominate a student, please write a letter (Word document or PDF) that includes:

- Relationship to student
- Examples of the student's interest in outdoor recreation and/or environmental and marine sciences

An educator may only nominate one student. The student must <u>not</u> be a family member of the nominating educator. Please email your letter to Carley Metcalf at carley@marinediscoverycenter.org by April 22, 2024 to be considered for the 2024 summer camp season.