



# Exclusive Insider eGuide for Field Trip Planning

Welcome to the Dolphins Plus Bayside eGuide  
for educators and student group coordinators!

Located in the heart of the beautiful Florida Keys, Dolphins Plus offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students to get up close and personal with our resident bottlenose dolphins while providing unforgettable educational experiences.

Our state-of-the-art facility features a natural seawater lagoon, where students can participate in a variety of interactive and educational programs with our dolphins. From dolphin demonstrations to dockside and in water programs, there is something for everyone and every age.

In addition to our dolphin interactions, we offer a wide variety of educational experiences including classroom presentations, labs, hands-on activities, games, and behind the scenes tours covering topics ranging from local Florida Keys ecology, conservation, marine invertebrates, dolphin anatomy and physiology, animal care and training and more! Our goal is to provide a fun, educational experience that will leave a lasting impact on students.

Inspiring ocean conservation is our passion so our field trips can be customized with any combination of meaningful dolphin interactions, educational presentations and hands-on activities created to support curriculum standards.

This eGuide will provide you with information on how to make the most out of a field trip to Dolphins Plus including details on our interactive programs and educational experiences, tips on how to incorporate them into your curriculum, and ideas for hands-on activities to supplement your visit.

We look forward to working with you to create an amazing experience for you and your students!



## Director of Education

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## Education and Adventure: What You Can Expect!

### Interactive Programs

Our facility offers a variety of interactive programs with our resident bottlenose dolphins, from dockside and shallow water encounters to our Signature Swim! Our programs are suitable for students of all ages and abilities, making them a great option for a diverse group.

- [Educational Dolphin Demonstrations](#)
- [Meet a Dolphin](#)
- [Dolphin Dockside](#)
- [Shallow Water Dolphin Encounter](#) \*age requirements\*
- [Signature Swim](#) \*age requirements\*
- [Shadow a Trainer for a day](#)
- [Behind the Scenes Tour](#)

### Educational Activities:

Our team of marine biologists and educators will guide your students through various presentations and hands-on activities covering the biology, behavior, and conservation of dolphins and other marine life. Prior to your field trip, our education team will work with you to customize an itinerary based on your group's needs and interests.

### Lecture Topics:

- [Anatomy and Physiology](#)
- [Animal Training](#)
- [Marine Mammal Care Lab](#)
- [Florida Keys Conservation](#)
- [Coral Reefs](#)
- [Mangrove Ecology](#)

### Hands-on Activities:

- [Dolphin-inspired art projects](#)
- [Animal Training Game](#)
- [Squid Dissection](#)
- [Marine Invertebrate Touch Tank](#)
- [The Intelligence Debate](#)

The above list are examples of activities that can be included.

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## Making the Most of Your Visit:

Our facility is conveniently located in the heart of Key Largo. The diverse ecosystem of the Florida Keys make it a great destination for a field trip focused on protecting fragile ecosystems and animal conservation. There is so much to see and do in the area. Our team will not only provide suggestions on how to make the most of your time at our facility, but will recommend nearby attractions and activities to complete your South Florida adventure.

### How We Can Help with Planning:

- Recommended nearby attractions including SCUBE diving, snorkeling, kayaking, and ecotours
- Suggestions for meals and accommodations
- Tips for making the most of your time at our facility

A field trip to Dolphins Plus Bayside could align with a variety of state, national, and science standards, including:

### Some of the specific standards that a field trip to Dolphins Plus Bayside might align with include:

- Understanding the characteristics and behavior of organisms
- Understanding the interactions between organisms and their environment
- Understanding the structure and function of cells, tissues, organs, and organ systems
- Understanding the characteristics of the oceans and the effects of human activities on them
- Understanding the principles of ecology and conservation biology

### State Standards:

- Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

### National Standards:

- National Science Education Standards (NSES)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Education Standards

Please note that the actual alignment of a field trip to Dolphins Plus Bayside with state, national, and science standards may vary depending on the specific curriculum and focus of the field trip. It's important to check with the facility and the specific program you want to experience.



# Dolphin-Powered Curriculum: Dive into Engaging Education!

Here are some tips for educators on how to incorporate the programs offered at Dolphins Plus Bayside into your curriculum:

Our expert marine biologists and educators will lead your students through interactive presentations and hands-on experiences, exploring the fascinating world of dolphins and other marine life, including their biology, behavior, and related conservation topics.

1

Use the information provided in the educational presentations as a basis for class discussions and debates.

2

Have students research and present on specific topics related to marine biology and conservation, such as dolphin behavior or ocean conservation efforts.

3

Create pre- and post-visit activities to supplement the information learned during the field trip.

4

Use the information and activities provided by the facility to create projects and presentations for students to showcase what they've learned.

5

Incorporate the visit into interdisciplinary studies, such as language arts, math and social studies.

6

Use the information and activities provided by the facility to create quizzes, test and exams.

7

Create a field journal for students to document their observations and reflections during the field trip.

8

Use the information and activities provided by the facility to create a virtual field trip for students who are unable to attend the physical trip.

9

Incorporate the visit into your school's science fair or other academic competitions.

10

Have students create a presentation or video to share with the class or school community about what they learned during the field trip.

11

Use the information and activities provided by the facility to create a science club or environmental club.

## Here are some additional ideas for hands-on classroom activities that focus on conservation, stewardship, or marine biology:

Create a marine stewardship plan, such as a beach clean-up project or a coral reef restoration project.

Create a presentation or podcast about the impact of climate change on marine life, and potential actions to mitigate it.

Research and analyze data on the population and distribution of a specific marine species and create a conservation plan for that species.

Create a game or simulation that teaches about the impact of ocean acidification on marine life and potential solutions to mitigate it.

Create a presentation about the impact of pollution on marine life, such as oil spills, and potential solutions to mitigate it.

Create a project about the impact of coastal development on marine life and potential solutions to mitigate it.

## Student Group Organizer Checklist:

- Determine the number of students and chaperones who will be attending the field trip.
- Book transportation to and from Dolphins Plus.
- Make arrangements for any special needs students or chaperones, such as accommodations for mobility impairments or dietary restrictions.
- Communicate with Dolphins Plus to confirm the date and time of the field trip, as well as any other necessary details such as meal times or educational activities.
- Create a schedule for the field trip, including travel time, arrival and departure times, and any planned activities or events.
- Create a packing list for students and chaperones, including appropriate clothing and shoes for the field trip, as well as any personal items they may need.
- Send out reminders to students and chaperones about the field trip, including the schedule, packing list, and any other important details.
- On the day of the field trip, make sure to have a head count of all attendees, and do a final check of the packing list to ensure that everyone has everything they need.
- Have a plan in place for any emergencies that may arise, including contacting the appropriate authorities and having a designated meet-up location in case the group becomes separated.
- After the field trip, follow up with students and chaperones to gather feedback and make any necessary improvements for future field trips.

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