

FIELD TRIP HANDBOOK

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ACTIVITIES

Below are some of the most popular activities at LUMCON. All activities listed on this page are adaptable to any audience. Other activities or topics may be arranged by request (for example: wetland restoration, hypoxia, non-point source pollution, careers in marine science, physical oceanography).

Indoor Activities

Indoor activities are independent of weather.

- **Guided LUMCON Tour**
Grade level: 3-12
Duration: ~1.5 hours
- **Plankton Laboratory**
Grade Level: 5-12
Duration: ~2 hours
- **Fish and Invertebrate Anatomy Laboratory**
Grade Level: 5-12
Duration: ~2 hours
Comparisons of preserved specimens (to address issues including adaption, classification, etc.) can be performed for no additional charge. For a fee, we also offer dissection labs using non-preserved fresh or frozen specimens (squid, fish, shark or blue crab as available). *Additional cost:* \$3 per participant. All students will participate and work with a partner on a single specimen. Teachers and chaperones do not participate, but work with the students during the process.

Outdoor Activities

These are outdoor, field activities that may be changed because of weather. Be prepared to get wet or muddy.

- **Scientific Pond Collection/Marsh Walk**
Grade Level: 3-12
Duration: ~2 hours
- **Bayouside Classroom Water Sampling**
Grade Level: 6-12
Duration: ~3 hours

- **Salt Marsh Paddling**
Grade Level: 6-12
Duration: ~2.5 hours
Additional Costs:
 1. \$15/kayaks. You may put 2 students in a kayak.
- **Educational Cruise aboard the *R/V Acadiana***
Grade Level: 7-12
Duration: 3-4 hours
Additional Costs: \$400 - \$480 per cruise; 25 participants maximum (teacher, chaperons and students).

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SCHEDULING

Education Schedule (Overnight trips)

When designing a full or multiple-day field trip, please consider the educator schedule (below). This can be modified with good reason and communication between the group leader and the educator. A typical day offers ~10 hours during which LUMCON educators will work with your students (the morning and afternoon sessions run 3.5-4 hours). Otherwise, students are the responsibility of teachers and chaperones while at LUMCON.

Morning session: **8:00 – 12:00 noon**

Afternoon session: **1:00 – 5:00 pm**

Evening session: **6:30 – 8:30 pm**

Timing of Requests and Acceptances

K-12 and teacher education experiences at LUMCON are scheduled by the **academic school year (September – May)**. If you are interested in scheduling a field trip for a summer camp, please see the note below about **Summer Reservations**.

Reservation requests may be submitted any time of the year. However, submitting your request by **May 1** will increase your odds of successfully booking a trip for the upcoming school year. Please feel welcome to continue to submit requests after this date.

LUMCON has limited resources and personnel for conducting its marine education activities, and would like to serve a maximum number of schools and students. Accommodating your request is a high priority, but unfortunately not all requests can be accepted.

Summer Reservations

LUMCON has a summer program for university students. K-12, teacher, and public education groups will be placed on the calendar as facilities and personnel allow.

K-12 and Teacher groups will not be scheduled for summer field trips, workshops, etc. prior to the April 1 deadline for summer program registration. Facilities availability is not definite until after registration has ended.

K-12 teachers wanting to learn more about Marine Science are encouraged to consider attending one of our many teacher workshops or taking a summer course. Visit our teacher education page (<https://lumcon.org/education/teacher>) or our university page (<https://lumcon.org/education/university/>) to learn more.

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FEES

“Participants” includes visiting students, teachers, and chaperones.

Marine Educator Fees

A marine educator fee is charged for each sequence of up to three consecutive sessions. [Click here](#) to see a list of our current fees.

Vessel Fees

Vessel use requires additional fees. [Click here](#) to see a list of our current fees.

Meals

LUMCON cafeteria offers meals to groups that utilize LUMCON facilities and education programs. A 10-person minimum is required when requesting meals from the cafeteria. The group as a whole must have one type of meal (e.g. regular dinner not regular dinner and seafood dinner) for each mealtime. [Click here](#) to see a list of our current fees.

Housing

LUMCON has on-site dorm rooms for use during longer education activities and events. Our dorm rooms are predominantly bunk style rooms that sleep 4 people. For more information about housing options contact us by emailing information@lumcon.edu. [Click here](#) to see a list of our current fees.

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HOW TO BOOK

Requesting a Field Trip

1. Review activities offered by Marine Education.
2. Read Rules & Policies (below) before submitting your request.
3. Call our [Director of Education and Outreach](#) to request a field trip booking.

Notification of Field Trip Reservation Status

- Individuals will be notified of their reservation status by email. This notice will inform the group leader of the following:
 - Requests for additional information
 - A estimate of cost based on the requested trip details
 - The deposit and cancellation policy, a list of general LUMCON policies, and group rules
- Please:
 - Provide any information needed promptly
 - Adapt your plan as necessary
- You will receive a confirmation form from LUMCON's receptionist approximately six weeks before your field trip. Please return this promptly, at least one month before your field trip.
- Please keep in mind that changes to existing reservations (arrival date, time, number of participants, activities, etc.) **MUST** be confirmed with your educator before the field trip.
- Your deposit must be paid to complete your reservation.

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RULES AND POLICIES

Help us make yours the best experience possible:

- **Communicate with the receptionist and educators:**
 - Give them accurate arrival and departure times and inform them of changes to the number of people in your group.
 - Increasing the number of participants requires educator approval.
- **Be prepared for field conditions:**
 - All outdoor activities require closed-toed shoes. Crocs are not adequate for canoeing or the Acadiana cruise.
 - Bring sunscreen and bug spray.
 - Bring a change of clothes with extra shoes if you have planned outdoor activities.
 - Prepare for weather and changes in weather: In winter, bring layers of warm clothing. In summer, bring a light jacket or long-sleeve shirt to protect from sun, insects, and air conditioning.
 - Bring rain gear.
- **Chaperones and teachers participate in all activities and enforce discipline:**
 - Group leaders are responsible for student activities after 8:30 pm. They are responsible for student behavior at all times.
 - Fishing from the dock is allowed with adult supervision and proper licenses; please follow state fishing regulations.

- **Quiet hours of 10:00 pm – 6:00 am will be enforced by the security guard.**
If you would like to change the quiet hours to 10:30 pm, please inform your educator, who will tell the security guard.

PLEASE NOTE:

Educators work to minimize the dangers inherent in laboratory and field activities. Each educator is authorized to cancel any field trip because of inclement weather, poor behavior of students or chaperones, inadequate numbers of chaperones, or any other reason.

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