

# Kiawah Island Nature Program

## On-Island Field Trip

Programs are hosted here, on Kiawah Island, led by our knowledgeable Naturalists! Your students will receive a hands-on, memorable experience immersed in the natural world of our pristine barrier island!

\$4/student/1-hour long program with a \$60 minimum. Teachers are complimentary as well as chaperones with a recommended ratio of 1 adult to every 10 students.

100 student maximum for on-island visitation

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## Classroom Program

Kiawah's Naturalists can come to you! Let us visit your school and present interpretive programs in person.

\$150 for a single 1-hour long program with 30 students

\$4 for each additional student, \$75 for each additional hour-long program

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## Questions?

Our Naturalists have strong science backgrounds and can work with you to customize specific themes and topics from our programs to harmonize with subjects covered in your classroom and the South Carolina State Science Standards.

Please contact our Education Coordinator, **Meredith\_Bean @kiawahresort.com** or call the Nature Center at **843.768.6001** with any inquiries or additional questions about the programs we offer!

## Available Programs

### Reptile Round-Up:

*Recommended for Kindergarten through Fifth grades*

Are you ready for an up-close, hands-on experience with our reptiles? With our experienced Naturalists as your guide, learn what adaptations make each reptile unique, what their important roles are within their environment, and debunk some of the common misconceptions surrounding reptiles! After a hands-on interaction with some of our live reptile species, your students are sure to have a newfound appreciation and understanding for Lowcountry wildlife!

Kiawah's Ambassador Species: American Alligators, Corn Snakes, Eastern Box Turtles, Diamondback Terrapins, and much more!

*Available for On-Island Field Trips or Classroom Visits*

### Beach Ecology:

*Recommended for Kindergarten through Fifth grades*

Investigate native sea creatures as they become exposed by the tide! Groups are led by a Naturalist guide, addressing the many species that can be discovered along our shoreline while beachcombing. This may range from a variety of marine invertebrates to marine mammals, shorebirds, and even fish species! Naturalists can also cover related topics including dune and barrier island formation, succession, erosion, or the nesting and hatching activity of the sea turtles that visit Kiawah!

Between April and September, this program also includes a seining session, which involves pulling a net through the water, and dragging it back onshore to observe the catch. This experience allows students to obtain hands on interaction with native fish, crabs, and potentially other species that can be caught while seining!

**\*\* This program is weather dependent\*\***

*Available for On-Island Field Trips, modified programming available for Classroom visits*

### Maritime Forest and Freshwater Ecosystems:

*Recommended for Third through Fifth grades*

Are your students ready to explore one of the quintessential ecosystems of the Lowcountry? Allow one of our Naturalists to lead your class on a walk through Night Heron Park's maritime forest and ponds. Here they will have an in-person opportunity to learn about succession, the different flora and fauna that can tolerate this sometimes extreme environment, and how decomposers, producers, and consumers work together to create an intricate balance within the food chain.

*Available for On-Island Field Trips*

## Salt Marsh Ecology:

*Recommended for Third through Fifth grades*

Kiawah Island's salt marsh is teeming with life, made up of thousands of different organisms, a variety of plant species, and encompassing a range of ecosystems. With an experienced Naturalist as your guide, students will have the opportunity to learn about the transition between a freshwater and saltwater habitat and the flora that define each ecosystem. Students can try their hand at using dip nets from the dock to see what kind of aquatic creatures they may be able to find! We will even have the opportunity to pull up a crab pot to see what kind of animals are living beneath the surface! Finally, Naturalists will discuss the overall importance of the salt marsh habitat, its effect on the overall health of the Lowcountry, as well as the differences between our ever-changing tides.

*Available for On-Island Field Trips*

## Going Native:

*Recommended for Third through Fifth grades*

Have you ever thought about what Kiawah was like before colonization? Take a step back in time with your students and experience Kiawah through the eyes of the Native Americans that once called this island home. In this program, with a Naturalist as your guide, your group will have the opportunity to explore some of the different habitats within Kiawah Island. As we explore, we will learn about the many different ways that Kiawah's native plant and animal species may have been utilized as resources! We will conclude with a craft made from our island's natural resources!

*Available for On-Island Field Trips*

## Mammalogy:

*Recommended for Third through Fifth grades*

Put your students' detective skills to the test with our mammalogy program! After a brief presentation led by an experienced Naturalist about how different mammals have adapted to Lowcountry living, students will work together in teams to identify a variety of native mammal skulls. With a dichotomous key as their only tool, they will have to make observations about each skull's adaptations in order to determine who it may belong to and gain points based on their team's accuracy.

*Available for On-Island Field Trips or Classroom Visits*