

Kiawah Island Nature Program

Tideland Treasures – Motorboat Excursion (3-hours):

Join one of our Kiawah Island Captains and a knowledgeable Naturalist as we explore the ebb and flow of the Kiawah River. The salt marsh is one of our country's most protected natural resources, with over 700,000 species that call it home and an important impact on the overall health of the Lowcountry ecosystems. Your students will have a chance to view abundant bird life, get to know and understand the different vegetation zones within the marsh, and perhaps be able to catch a glimpse of our resident Bottlenose Dolphins!

Motorboat excursions are weather dependent

13-person maximum per boat ride

Can accommodate and customize for larger groups, please inquire with Meredith_Bean@kiawahresort.com

\$20 per student with a 6 student or \$120 minimum, teachers and chaperones are complimentary

Up to 2 Inquiry Labs included (teacher's choice)

The Living Marsh – Kayaking Excursion (3-hour):

Is your class ready for an adventure? Let our knowledgeable Naturalists guide your students on a kayaking excursion through the Kiawah River. In tandem kayaks, we can get a closer look at the intricate relationship between the abiotic and biotic factors within this ever-changing environment. The tidal ebb and flow of our coastal salt marsh constantly shapes its surrounding ecosystem, creating different zones of plant life and a home for an abundance of species that make up a complex, productive habitat. Your students will have the opportunity to work together, view a variety of wildlife, better understand how the salt marsh works as a whole, and hopefully be able to catch a glimpse of our resident Bottlenose Dolphins!

Kayaking is weather dependent

Tandem Boats only (students paired), 40-student maximum

\$20 per student with a \$200 minimum, teachers and chaperones are complimentary

Up to 2 Inquiry Labs included (teacher's choice)

Inquiry Labs

Some labs are tidal and weather dependent

Water Quality Testing:

Students will have the opportunity to take measurements within the Kiawah River such as dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, and salinity. They will then be challenged to hypothesize how each of these measurements may change based on other environmental factors, such as high tide vs. low tide, warm months vs. cold months, pollution levels, and much more!

Deadliest Catch:

Students will try their hand at safely capturing any number of marine species that inhabit our marsh. Using a variety of techniques such as dip nets, seining, and our crab pot, we will do our best to catch and learn about some of the different invertebrate species that call our Kiawah River home. With this up-close, hands-on experience, Naturalists will help students learn about some of the different adaptations that each animal has made in order to thrive in its environment and how they are able to interact in order to create a healthy ecosystem!

Fish Sampling:

What's swimming in our waters? Your students will have the opportunity to utilize both sein and cast nets to try their luck at safely capturing and getting an up-close encounter with some of our native fish species. Naturalists will help students learn about what adaptations fish have made to become successful and how certain adaptations are specific to the zone that they inhabit within the water column. We will also discuss not only how fish play an important role within the salt marsh ecosystem, but also how our marshes are vital for their success and survival.

Marsh Habitats:

Get ready to explore the marsh, up close and personal! In this lab, we will focus on the different habitats that make up our salt marsh. What plant or animal species reside where and what adaptations have they made to become successful, especially in this salty, sometimes extreme environment. Students will have the opportunity to explore different areas of the marsh with a Naturalist and brainstorm about why certain organisms are more successful in one area and not another. By gaining an understanding of its habitats, students will be able to draw connections between the salt marsh and its effects on surrounding ecosystems.

Surveying and Observation:

Let your students dip their toes into the world of citizen science! As we observe different species, Naturalists will assist students in recording their sightings and teach them about the important role that each animal plays within the intricate estuarine ecosystem, and the consequences that may arise if those populations suffer. Through programs such as eBird, Dolphin Count, and the South Carolina Citizen Science application, students will have an opportunity to take part in data collection and assist scientists in better understanding a myriad of topics including the health of bird and dolphin populations and the types of trash that are most commonly found in the water ways. Naturalists can also cover topics such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, and other local laws and regulations.

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!