Everglades

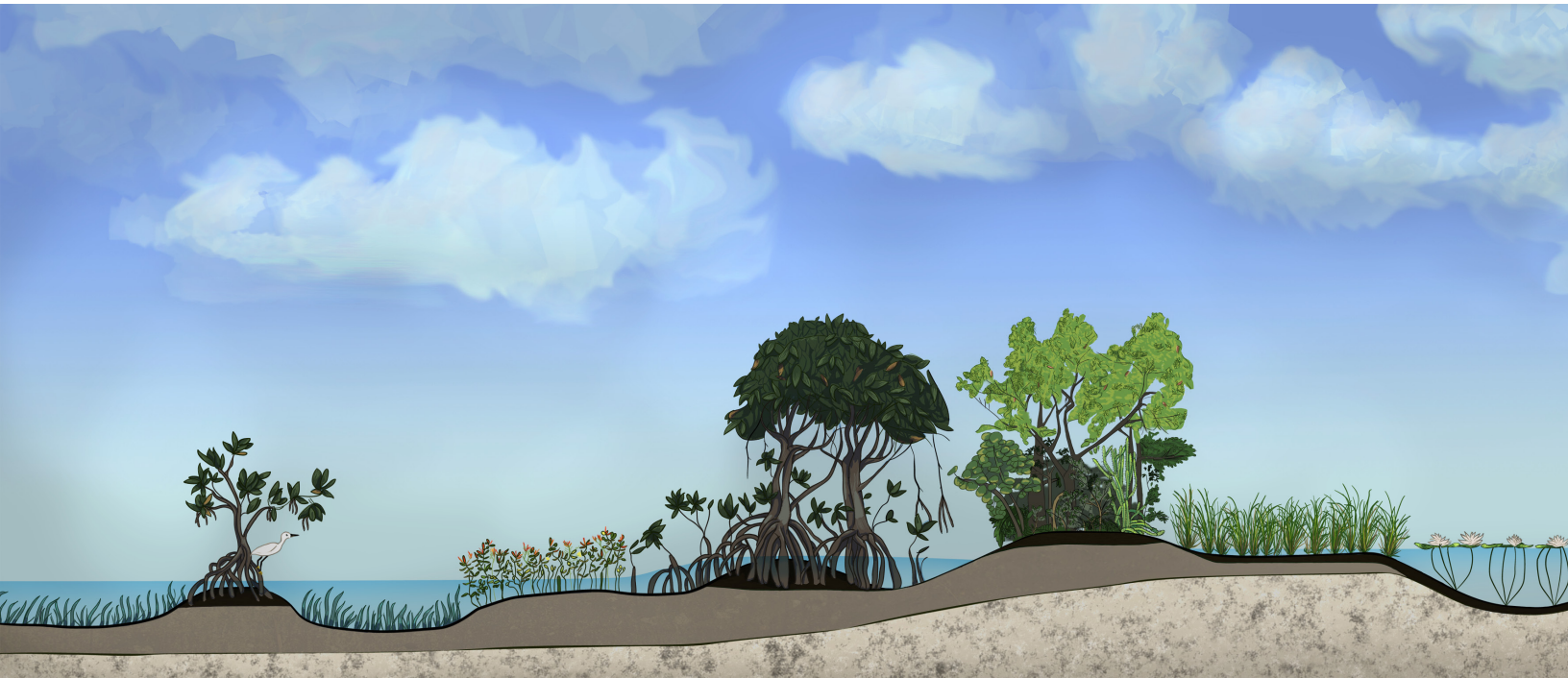
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Everglades National Park
Florida

Camping Program Teacher's Guide

"There are no other Everglades in the world. They are, they have always been, one of the unique regions of the earth, remote, never wholly known."

~ Marjory Stoneman Douglas



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Acknowledgements

This guide is dedicated to those teachers who share their sense of wonder with their students.

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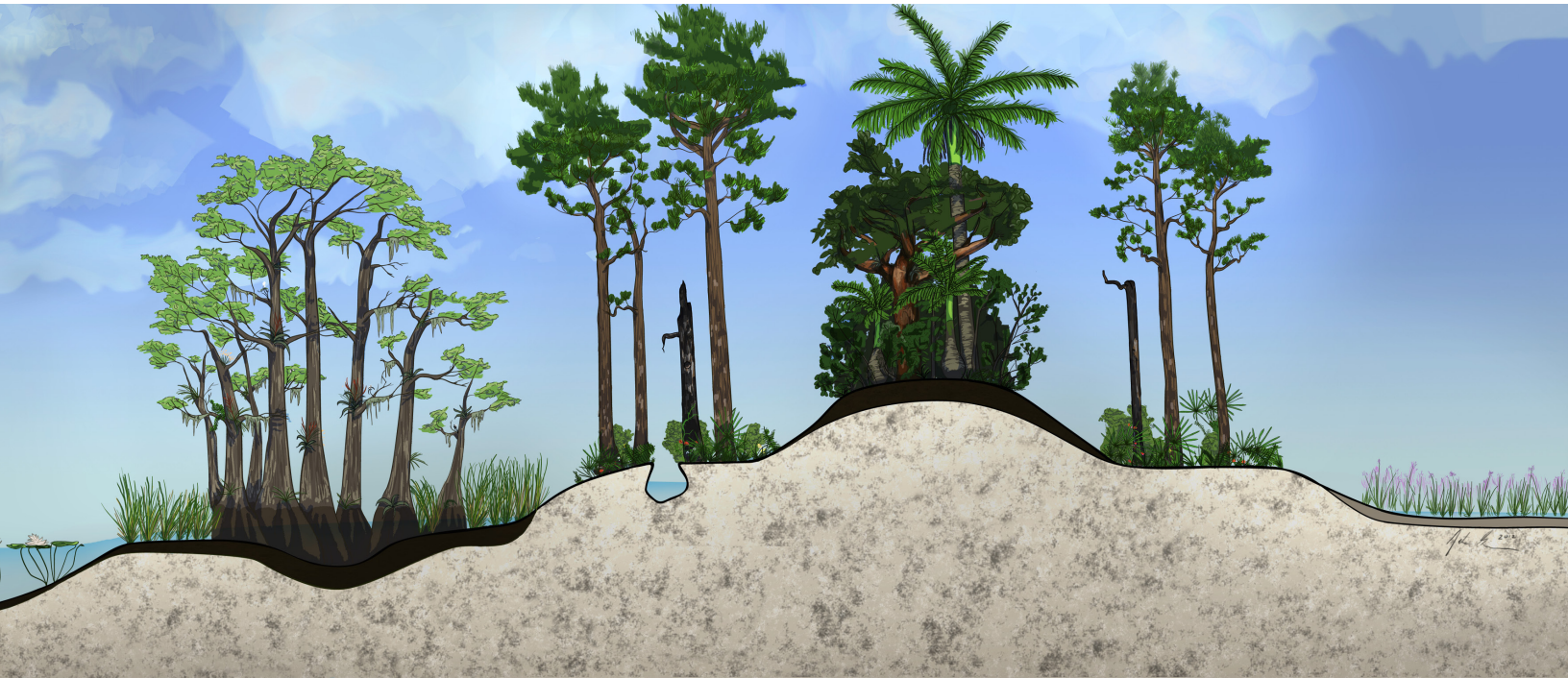
The production of this guide was made possible through the generous support of Toyota and the South Florida National Parks Trust.

Printed on recycled paper, December 2012.



2 *Impressions*

"This is a fantastic program, and although there is a lot of preparation involved, it is well worth the time spent. The children are able to experience the Everglades in real time and it continues to expand my appreciation and awe of this wonderful natural resource and beauty we have here in South Florida."

"The ranger was extremely patient, knowledgeable and helpful to my students. For the majority, it was the first time many have gone to a national park and for that I thank you."

"The ranger made our trip fantastic! The trip was well tied to Florida objectives and she made our experience so meaningful. She was wonderful with the students and they are motivated to help conserve our natural resources! The trip exceeded my expectations."

Everglades Environmental Education 3

Everglades National Park

Everglades National Park (NP) was established in 1947 to protect the natural habitats of the Everglades Ecosystem. Everglades became the first national park to be created not for the grandeur of its landscape, but for the richness of its biodiversity. This globally significant 1.5 million acre national park is also designated as a World Heritage Site, an International Biosphere Reserve, and a Wetland of International Significance. Today, South Florida is home to one of the world's largest ecosystem restoration efforts, which seeks to maintain the region's abundance of life with properly managed water flow through the ecosystem's watershed.

Environmental Education

In 1971, Everglades NP began offering educational programs in partnership with local school districts. From humble beginnings grew one of the largest environmental education programs in the National Park Service. With four core programs and additional curriculum resources, Everglades NP hosts over 11,000 students annually. These curriculum-based programs are offered in close partnership with local classroom educators and are aligned with the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards.

Educators attend a workshop, organize a field trip, teach their students about the Everglades, co-lead an adventure in the park, and then follow up with reflective classroom activities. The support of these teachers allows the program to have a much greater impact than park staff alone could impart.

Program Goals

Park staff, teachers, and school administrators share responsibility for the Everglades Education Program. These partners have agreed upon the following goals:

- Acquaint the students of South Florida with the habitats of Everglades National Park including the hardwood hammock, the freshwater slough, the sawgrass prairie, and the pine rocklands.
- Develop in students an appreciation for their total environment, both natural and human made.
- Develop in students an understanding of Everglades National Park's value to the web of life in South Florida;
- Motivate students to actively participate in solving South Florida's environmental problems.

Although these goals may not be achieved in their entirety during a single trip, classroom lessons can make even one park visit a significant step toward educating students as caretakers of South Florida's natural resources.

This guide will help you prepare for a field trip to the Royal Palm and Long Pine Key areas of the park. Use it as a reminder for material covered during the teacher workshop, a review of the habitats, and a reference for classroom activities and additional resources.

Thank you for your willingness to become a trip leader! We hope visiting your national parks will be a lifetime adventure.

Everglades Education Program

Day Programs
Shark Valley for 4th grade
Royal Palm for 5th-6th grades

Camping Programs
Hidden Lake for 5th-6th grades
Loop Road for 5th-6th grades

For information about our programs, guest speakers, in-school teacher workshops, curriculum resources, and loan materials, visit our website:

www.nps.gov/ever/forteachers

4 Camp Program Locations

Environmental Education Centers

Everglades National Park offers camping programs for 5th and 6th grade students at two different locations. Both centers provide secluded camping facilities that are closed to the general public. A range of South Florida habitats surround each camp, offering experiences in a variety of different places. The Hidden Lake Education Center is located off of the main park road approximately 15 miles southwest of Homestead. The Loop Road Education Center is located off of Tamiami Trail / Highway 41, 12 miles west of Shark Valley.

Both education centers have amenities tailored for the three-day experience. These include a large covered picnic shelter or "chickee," food storage areas, barbecue grills, modern restrooms with sinks and flush toilets (no showers), five large canvas tents with mesh screen linings, a campfire circle with benches, and an alternate shelter in case of severe weather.

Hidden Lake Education Center

The Hidden Lake campsite is situated on the edge of a three-acre lake and surrounded by hardwood trees. The small lake is ideal for testing new canoe skills, and the camp is within walking distance of Royal Palm, home of the popular Anhinga Trail. This campsite is located in Miami-Dade County.

Loop Road Education Center

The Loop Road campsite offers open, grassy spaces among pine and hardwood trees. Special features include a pond and cultural exhibit. Because of its proximity to Shark Valley, groups can choose to take the two-hour tram tour and visit the 50-foot tall observation tower. This campsite is located in mainland Monroe County.

Both camping locations provide:

- *Five large waterproof canvas tents.*
- *An open-air shelter with picnic tables for meals.*
- *Restrooms with modern sinks and toilets.*
- *A campfire circle with seating.*
- *Ample and secure dry food storage.*
- *Potable drinking water.*
- *An alternate emergency sleeping shelter.*

Camp Schedule 5

Hidden Lake

Day 1

10:00	Arrive at Coe Visitor Center
11:00	Camp orientation
12:00	Move in and eat lunch
1:00	Ranger-led activities (slough slog)
5:00	Dinner
6:00	Ranger-led night hike and campfire
9:00	Ranger departs
10:00	Lights out

Day 2

7:00	Breakfast
8:30	Ranger-led activities (canoeing)
11:30	Lunch
12:00	Water debate activity
2:00	Camp cleanup & inspection
2:30	**Teacher-led activities**
5:00	Dinner
6:00	**Teacher-led night activities and campfire**
10:00	Lights out

Day 3

6:30	Sunrise activity
7:30	Breakfast
8:00	Pack & camp cleanup
9:00	Inspection & closing activity
10:00	Campers depart

Loop Road

Day 1

10:00	Arrive at camp
11:00	Camp orientation
12:00	Move in and eat lunch
1:00	Ranger-led activities (Shark Valley tram)
5:00	Dinner
6:00	**Teacher-led night activities and campfire**
10:00	Lights out

Day 2

7:00	Breakfast
8:00	**Teacher-led activities**
12:00	Lunch
12:30	Camp cleanup & inspection
1:30	Ranger-led activities (slough slog)
5:00	Dinner
6:00	Ranger-led night hike and campfire
9:00	Ranger departs
10:00	Lights out

Day 3

6:30	Sunrise activity
7:30	Breakfast
8:00	Pack & camp cleanup
9:00	Inspection & closing activity
10:00	Campers depart

Note: Times are approximate.

6 *Ranger-Led Activities*

The camp ranger conducts activities during the times specified on the schedule and agreed upon by the ranger and lead teacher in discussions leading up to the trip. A host of Everglades educational activities are offered by the rangers who each design their own programming. Lead teachers should communicate which pre-site activities have been conducted in the classroom and which activities they plan to conduct at camp, so that rangers can plan accordingly. In addition to activities in and around camp, rangers conduct the following special activities:

Slough Slog

The slough slog is a wet hike that transports the group into the mysterious cypress habitat. This memorable experience combines group exploration with a first-hand look at the ecology of this unique environment.

At Hidden Lake, the slough slog takes place near the Pa-hay-okee trail on the first day and requires group transportation for the afternoon. At Loop Road, the slough slog takes place ½ mile from camp on the second afternoon, so participants walk to the location.

Depending on the time of year, the water level varies from thigh-high water to ankle deep mud. Walking sticks, dip nets, and ID cards are provided for hands-on investigations. During the slog, chaperones are responsible for keeping their tent groups together.

After the slough slog, groups are given time to hose off shoes and change into dry clothes. Adults must supervise the cleanup and changing. Clothes can be hung from the clothesline with provided clothespins, but must not be hung from the tents or put in the garbage. Care should be taken to try to keep the restrooms and tents relatively clean.

Canoeing (Hidden Lake)

Canoeing is only offered at the Hidden Lake campsite and offers a unique opportunity for students to build new skills. Canoeing takes place on the second morning to avoid windy afternoon conditions. If a group chooses not to canoe, the block of time will be filled with other ranger-led activities.

Prior to canoeing, everyone must participate in canoe school, during which the ranger reviews safety rules and paddling skills. All participants, including adults, are required to wear a life vest at all times while on the lake. Any inappropriate or unsafe behavior will end the activity for the entire group.

Students pair up and take turns paddling the canoe while a chaperone sits cross-legged in the middle. The ranger and one chaperone function as the "rescue" canoe, which remains on the water the entire time. The volunteer camp hosts assist with loading the canoes. One adult needs to remain in camp to conduct an educational activity for students before and after their turn canoeing. Often, teachers will utilize the on-site activity trunk with animal pelts, skulls, and tracks set up in stations.

Teacher-Led Activities 7

Shark Valley Tram Tour (Loop Road)

The Shark Valley tram tour is offered only at Loop Road. The tram tour is offered on the first day and requires transportation for the whole day. If a group does not go to Shark Valley, the block of time will be filled with other ranger-led activities.

Shark Valley offers a great chance to see wildlife along the 15-mile tram road. A highlight of the two-hour tour is the observation tower, a 50-foot high platform with an expansive view.

Night Hike

Exploring areas around camp at night is a thrilling experience that serves to dispel misconceptions about the dangers that lurk in the dark. Rangers lead night hikes out of both camp locations on the night that evening programming is provided. At Hidden Lake, this is on the first night and at Loop Road, on the second night. Participants hike with flashlights turned on unless otherwise instructed by the ranger. Chaperones should be spread out between tent groups and an adult must always remain at the end of the line. To really enjoy the evening in the Everglades, the group should remain as quiet as possible. Adults can help to set this tone and the expectation for a listening experience.

Teacher-led Activities

The true power of Everglades NP's education program comes from the contributions made by classroom educators. The camp programs are built around a co-teaching model with both the ranger and the teacher providing educational opportunities. At the required workshop, teachers learn about the Everglades and are shown many example activities that they can use. Additionally, curriculum guides on the park's website contain many multi-disciplinary activities that can be conducted before, during, or after camp. Teachers are encouraged to be creative and use their experience and skills to create new and meaningful opportunities for students to connect with the Everglades.

Pre-Site Activities

Pre-site preparation conducted by classroom educators prior to field trips is a crucial part of the program. If students learn about the Everglades before the trip, they will have the opportunity to make tangible connections with what they previously learned. Additionally, the ranger will be able to build on their prior knowledge instead of covering the basics.

On-Site Activities

The lead teacher (or teachers) conducts activities during the times specified on the schedule and agreed upon with the ranger. All activities should have an educational component. Consider including a variety of activities to balance physical activity, quiet reflection,

8 Preparations & Registration

and focused attention. Each camp has a set of activity kits that include the materials and directions for conducting lessons. Group leaders should communicate which activities they plan to use, and rangers will ensure that the necessary materials are ready.

Lead teachers typically make schedules that include planned activities, meals, and cleanup. It is also a good idea to plan for additional activities and alternatives in case of rain or cold weather.

Post-Site Activities

Follow-up classroom activities that allow for reflection on the experience are a great way to wrap up the programming. We encourage teachers to conduct activities that allow students to share their experience and express their new awareness with others. Artwork, displays, reports, and essays are all great ways to keep students thinking and learning about their backyard national park.

Preparations

Preparing for camp is a big undertaking. A six-week task guideline is included in this guide. The first year may be the most difficult to organize, but

we encourage creating and documenting a system that will help make future years easier. Group leaders must select students and chaperones, sort out the logistics of the trip and communicate with parents, school administrators, and park staff. Carefully choosing your chaperones and involving parents and administrators may help group leaders in distributing tasks.

Registration and Scheduling

The most up-to-date information about our programs as well as registration instructions can be found on our website at: *www.nps.gov/ever/forteachers*. Teachers may check the site during the summer to find out when registration will begin. Generally, registration begins at 8 AM during teacher planning days for Miami-Dade County Public Schools. We will send an e-mail reminder to notify teachers of the exact date and time. Program reservations fill up quickly, so we recommend that teachers visit the website prior to registration to learn what information they will need.

After submitting a program request, park education staff will be in contact with the lead teacher to establish a date for the trip. We make every attempt to grant a trip on the requested date, but may have to find alternative dates that are suitable for the group. Camps are offered either on a Monday-Wednesday schedule or a Wednesday-Friday schedule. Dates are available from mid-December through early April, with the exception of the winter holiday break.

One park ranger is assigned to each group. Along with the lead teacher, the ranger presents programming and leads activities at camp. In the weeks leading up to the trip, the ranger contacts the group to discuss scheduling and logistics. The ranger can tailor the programming to coordinate with material that has been covered in the classroom leading up to the trip. The ranger will also want to know if a group has any special concerns or needs.

Workshops & Transportation 9

Workshops

Teachers are required to attend a two-day workshop before bringing their students camping. A separate workshop is required for each camp location. Workshops are held once a year on a weekend in December or early January. The dates for the workshops are posted on the park's website.

The camping program teacher workshops are overnight experiences at the same locations where teachers will bring their students. The workshop is a great opportunity to learn about the Everglades ecosystem and acquire educational materials to help bring the Everglades into your classroom.

During the two-day workshop, you will learn about our camp facilities, camp schedules, rules, and procedures. You will also gain ideas and suggestions for pre, post, and on-site activities as well as logistical preparations. Additionally, you will have the chance to meet the education staff.

Only one lead teacher is required to attend a camp teacher workshop. Other teachers or adults participating as leaders in the program are also welcome to attend. Because of space limitations, we are unable to accommodate parent chaperones or family and friends of teachers attending the workshop. Tents and restrooms are provided, but teachers must bring their own food and camping gear.

Teachers who attend a workshop will be certified to bring students that year or the following school year. As long as teachers attend the camp program at least once every two years, they will not need to attend another workshop. If a teacher does not participate two years in a row, we ask that they return to a workshop before leading another trip to refresh themselves on logistics, activities, and any new information.

Transportation

Each school must arrange and pay for its own transportation to and from the park. Most schools use district-approved bus transportation. Some schools choose to transport children in private vehicles. Whichever method you choose, it must meet all school district safety regulations, and supplies and gear should be packed securely.

At least one personal vehicle must remain at camp for the duration of the program. This vehicle serves as the emergency vehicle should a program participant need to be transported from the camp. Often, the lead teacher will drive separately from the bus in a personal vehicle that remains at camp. Additional personal vehicles should be kept to a minimum.

For both the Hidden Lake and Loop Road programs, activities are available on the first afternoon that require student transportation. At Hidden Lake, a slough slog, or wet hike, is offered approximately 10 miles from camp at Pa-hay-okee. At Loop Road, the group can choose to explore Shark Valley on a guided tram tour, beginning approximately 12 miles from camp. We encourage groups to take advantage of these special activities, but they require transportation until late afternoon on the first day. In the weeks leading up to camp, groups can work

10 *Chaperones & Meal Planning*

with their assigned ranger to discuss the time frame for these activities.

Chaperones

Chaperones are an integral part of the camping experience. They provide support to the lead teacher and help guide the students. Chaperones can be parents, school staff, or other responsible adults. Chaperones are chosen by the lead teacher with a minimum of one adult for every five students (1:5 ratio) and with a maximum of eight adults total. Too many adults can be a distraction during the visit, but a minimum is required to maintain a safe learning environment.

It is important that lead teachers impress upon their chaperones the implied responsibilities for the trip. Parents of participating children should be encouraged to treat all of the students with equal attention. Chaperones should be reminded to be active participants in all camp activities. The focus of the trip is to create a learning experience for children and adults alike. If all of the adults are actively engaged and modeling attentive behavior, the students will follow. The adults can slip away for brief breaks or to attend to duties such as food preparations, but they should attempt to participate at all other times. Supporting the camp in the role of the chaperone can be exhausting, but the opportunity to contribute to the students' experience—and to experience the park themselves—is a great reward. Chaperone guidelines, in English and Spanish, are included in this guide for teachers to copy and distribute.

Parent Meetings

Parents and guardians of participating children have valid concerns about students attending a residential camping program. Detailed information needs to be clearly communicated to parents or guardians so that the proper gear is sent along for the trip. In the months leading up to a trip, we recommend that lead teachers hold a parent meeting to address these issues. Scheduling an afterschool or evening session gives the teacher a chance to talk about the camp experience, address concerns, reviews what students need to bring, collect money (if necessary), and identify adult chaperones.

Lead teachers, especially those who are new to the program, can call the education office to arrange for park staff to attend the parent meeting. We can also supply digital presentations and information to teachers who plan to host a parent meeting.

Meal Planning

Purchasing food, along with planning and preparing meals is one of the largest logistical responsibilities of the lead teacher. Our advice is to keep the plan as simple as possible. While it may seem overwhelming at first, there are only a few meals that need to be prepared for the group. On the first day, students should bring their own bag lunches. This leaves two breakfasts, two lunches and two dinners to prepare.

The camp facilities have barbecue grills and charcoal chimneys that help to heat the charcoal quickly. Lead teachers will need to bring their own

Cleanup and Student Duties 11

charcoal. We also recommend that groups bring their own propane camp stoves to heat water for hot drinks and dish washing and to warm pre-cooked meal items.

Students will be hungry after a day of activities and exercise. Quickly prepared foods will allow the group to make the most of their time in the park. Pre-cooked meals like chicken breasts, spaghetti, or lasagna can be reheated on the stove or grill. Hamburgers and hot dogs cook rather quickly and are a camp favorite. Taco fixings can be prepared ahead of time and allow everyone to make their own. Breakfast might be a combination of fruit, hot/cold cereal, muffins and granola bars. Lunch can consist of sandwich fixings and chips or carrot and celery sticks. Snacks, such as granola bars and fruit, keep students fueled between meals. Lemonade and other fruit drink mixes can easily be prepared on site. Students should also be encouraged to drink plenty of water.

Foods that need to be kept cold must be brought and stored in an ice chest. Canned food can be heated up and served on the second night if keeping perishables cold is a concern. Teachers also need to bring food preparation tools, pots, pans, and serving trays. Students should pack a mess kit that includes a plastic plate, bowl, cup, and cutlery. Alternatively, some schools purchase mess kit supplies for all the students that can then be reused each year.

When planning for meals, please consider environmentally responsible choices that limit the amount of waste. No disposables should be used during meals. If plastic water bottles are used, please bring a permanent marker to apply names to the bottles so that they can be reused during camp. Additionally, we ask that groups not leave anything behind at camp. Extra food and supplies are well-meaning contributions, but they quickly become unmanageable for staff.

Cleanup and Student Duties

Students, chaperones, and teachers are responsible for keeping the campsite clean and leaving it ready for the next group to arrive. Students should perform these duties under the supervision of chaperones and teachers.

Cleaning up after meals is especially important in order to avoid leaving behind food or crumbs that will attract wildlife and insects. While some members of the group attend to putting away supplies and extra food, others can scour the tables and area for bits of food and garbage. Another group should be assigned to clean dishes. A small dish-washing station at each camp consists of metal strainers and three tubs: one for soap, one for a light bleach solution, and a third for rinsing. After eating, participants scrape extra food into garbage bins and strain liquids through the metal strainers before cleaning their dishes at the station. Large dishes can be dried and mess kits hung in mesh bags to dry. Park staff are responsible for emptying the garbage and recycling bins.

On the second and third day of camp, a larger camp cleanup takes place. In addition to the individual tents, the boys and girls restrooms, the chickee, the fire circle, and the grounds all need to be cleaned and trash removed. Restroom cleaning supplies will be provided. Assigning tent groups to each area works well under the supervision of chaperones or teachers.

On the final day of camp, a full camp cleanup begins after breakfast. We encourage groups to start by cleaning up breakfast, then packing their gear

12 *Packing for Camp*

and finally cleaning the tents and restrooms. During this time, the adults can pack supplies and prepare lunch so that the group can resume ranger-led programming after the cleanup.

Creating a duty schedule that assigns chores by tent groups enables everyone to contribute. Posting the schedule lets everyone know what to expect. A sample duty roster is included in this guide. We recommend distributing duties so that the students get to experience a variety of tasks. Just as with meals, it is important to limit the amount of time spent on cleanup; however, it is also essential that the camp is ready for the next group. Maintaining their small community and the necessary chores may be surprisingly rewarding for students that may not be used to doing the dishes at home.

What to Pack

Included in this guide are recommended group and personal gear checklists. Participants should be encouraged to pack clothing that can be layered to accommodate variable weather conditions. Clothes and shoes should be comfortable and easy to walk in for long periods of time. All participants, including adults, must wear long pants, socks, and closed-toed shoes at all times when outside the tent. Warm weather can make shorts and sandals tempting, but they are not permitted for safety reasons. Clothing and shoes provide protection against poisonous plants, insect bites, and fire ant encounters. Participants should also come prepared for rain and cold weather.

If the group will be slough slogging, students will also need to be prepared for this wet, and sometimes muddy, hike. One pair of shoes, socks, and pants will get completely wet and will

not be usable again at camp. The wet hike does not ruin clothing or shoes, which can be hosed off at camp and then washed at home. Participants are required to take everything home with them, meaning they cannot throw out unwanted clothes or shoes at camp. Wet clothes can be hung out to dry after the hike, but we encourage bringing a plastic bag to transport dirty clothes and shoes home.

In addition to sleeping gear such as sleeping bags and pillows, participants need to be prepared for the night by bringing a small flashlight. We discourage students from bringing lanterns or large flashlights as they may be unable to carry them on evening walks. A small flashlight works best, especially when traveling in a large group of people with individual lights.

We recommend that teachers remind parents that this is a relatively short trip to a facility with a lot of amenities. Parents should not feel like they have to overpack or equip their child with new or elaborate camping gear. Several blankets can substitute for a sleeping bag. Duffel bags, school backpacks, or even heavy duty garbage bags will work for carrying personal gear.

What Not to Pack

Lead teachers should also communicate with parents and guardians about what not to send with the student. As with any school field trip, items prohibited in school are also not permitted at camp. Less obvious are some items we have found that create a distraction or may cause homesickness.

These include cameras, binoculars, electronics, and cell phones. Students may be disappointed to learn that we discourage cameras, but we want them to fully experience the Everglades through their own eyes. Adults are allowed to bring cameras and take pictures for the group, but we ask that they record the trip in a way that is not distracting from the experience. Electronics such as music and game players should not be brought to camp. The three-day trip is a chance to "unplug" and enjoy the other participants in the group. Students should not bring cell phones. We have found that speaking with parents during the trip promotes homesickness. In case of an emergency, the group will always be reachable.

Parents and guardians also need to be reminded not to send along extra food or money. Food should not be stored in the tents as it will attract mice and ants. Money is not needed at camp and there will be no visits to the gift shop during the busy schedule of programming.

14 *Rules and Safety*

Expectations

The park is a novel and exciting environment for students. A pre-visit discussion of park rules provides a framework that will make the experience more enjoyable for everyone. National Parks are dedicated to preserving and protecting wildlife, plants, and other features for future generations.

Respect the wildlife - Making loud noises, feeding, or harassing animals in the park is illegal. Remember these are wild animals, and it is always a good idea to stay at least 10 to 15 feet away.

Respect the plants - Picking flowers or breaking off leaves damages the plants. Collecting pine cones, feathers, or other natural objects is not allowed in the Everglades, or any national park.

Respect each other - When the ranger or teacher is talking or a student is answering a question, everyone should listen.

Volunteer camp hosts assist ranger staff, teachers, and adult chaperones in leading camping programs and maintaining the education centers.

General Rules

Groups may have a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 26 student participants.

The minimum ratio is one adult for every five students. The maximum allowable number of adults is eight.

At least one lead teacher must be workshop-certified at the location where the group is camping.

At least one vehicle must remain at camp in case of emergency.

Each group must bring its own first-aid kit to be stored in the shelter.

The lead teacher must bring two copies of student permission slips, keeping one set with them and giving the other set to park staff.

No fishing or swimming is allowed during camp.

Unplanned visitors to camp are not permitted. Other visitors must be approved by park staff.

Campground Area

Long pants, socks, and closed-toed shoes must be worn at all times outside the tents.

Students must stay within the camp boundary defined by the shelter, tents, and restroom. Students may only leave this area accompanied by an adult. The dock is off limits to unaccompanied students.

Groups must use flashlights while walking at night, even between the tent and restroom.

Chaperones supervising a small group are responsible for keeping the group together at all times.

Running, sports, and ball games are not permitted.

Shelter

A bell at the shelter signals that the entire group should gather for meals, activities, or an emergency.

The shelter must be fully cleaned after each meal and snack break to avoid attracting wildlife.

Food must be properly stored in cabinets or ice chests.

Use the proper garbage and recycling cans for waste.

Students are not allowed near lit stoves or barbecues.

Rules and Safety 15

At Hidden Lake, cooking stoves work best on the food prep table but can be used under the shelter if it is raining.

At Loop Road, the thatch roof of the chickee is highly flammable. No stoves, lanterns, or fire are allowed under the structure.

Propane and other fuels must be stored at least 15 feet from a stove or cooking area.

Lighter fluid is not permitted.

Remove charcoal from grills after it has cooled overnight and clean the grills with the metal brush provided.

Tents

Tent assignments should be made prior to arriving at camp.

Food, beverages, gum, and candy are not permitted in the tents.

Students are only allowed in the tent to which they are assigned.

The adult sleeping in the tent should sleep lengthwise in front of the door.

If any student has to use the restroom after lights out, the entire tent group should go to the restroom together with flashlights.

Taking off shoes when entering the tent minimizes tracking dirt, but bring shoes inside.

Students should only use the front door of the tents. Care must be used when handling the doors and zippers to prevent damage and minimize wear. Canvas flaps should be closed on unattended tents.

Nothing should lean against the inside lining of the tents.

Insect repellent and other aerosols must be applied outside and away from the tents.

Only battery powered lanterns are allowed in the tents.

Restrooms

Participants are responsible for keeping the restrooms clean and leaving them ready for the next group.

Only toilet paper should be flushed down the toilets. Other waste, including wet wipes or paper towels, will clog the plumbing system and make the toilets unusable.

Energy should be conserved by turning off restroom lights when not in use.

Campfire Circle

Unaccompanied students are not allowed in the campfire area.

Only adults may add wood to the fire.

Lighter fluid may not be used to light the campfire.

Participants may only walk around the outside, not across, the circle.

If roasting marshmallows, use the provided sticks and kneel on one knee.

No more than five people at a time may roast marshmallows.

Keep the water bucket filled and use it to completely extinguish the campfire before leaving the area.

A fire extinguisher is provided at the fire circle for emergencies.

16 *Emergencies*

Emergency Procedures

Contact the park's 24-hour communication center by radio or phone to request emergency assistance. Radios are located in the office at Loop Road and inside the shelter at Hidden Lake.

Notify parents immediately of any emergency. Parents' phone numbers on permission slips are kept near the phone in the classroom at Loop Road and with the teacher at Hidden Lake.

If necessary, a sick or injured participant should be transported by an adult chaperone while the lead teacher remains with the group.

In case of severe weather, such as lightning, groups should move into the storm shelter at Hidden Lake or the classroom at Loop Road.

In case of emergencies at home, parents may call your cell phone or the park's emergency number. Please emphasize to parents that the park number is only for significant emergencies.

After Hours Emergency at Loop Road

In case of an emergency, notify communication center by phone or radio and alert park staff living on site. The closest well-equipped hospital to Loop Road is West Kendall Baptist Hospital on Kendall Drive in Miami. Directions and a map to the hospital can be found next to the phone in the classroom.

If a student must go home at night, alert the park staff on site. Have the parent or guardian meet an adult chaperone and the student at the Miccosukee police station on Tamiami Trail (Highway 41). Directions to the station can be found next to the phone in the classroom; the station's phone number is 305-223-1600.

After Hours Emergency at Hidden Lake

In case of emergency, notify the park communication center by phone or radio. The closest hospital to Hidden Lake is Homestead Hospital on Campbell Drive in Homestead. Directions and a map to the hospital can be found next to the radio in the storm shelter.

If a student must go home at night, have the parent or guardian meet an adult chaperone and the student at the Shell gas station at the end of the Florida Turnpike, on the corner of W Palm Drive and US1 in Homestead. Directions to the station can be found next to the radio in the shelter. The following day, alert the ranger that a student had to leave camp.

Emergency Phone Number: 305-242-7740
24-hour Park Communication Center

Sample Menu & Duty Roster 17

Camping is a team effort. Encouraging students to help with meal preparation and camp cleanup builds a sense of ownership. Posting a duty roster will let everyone know their responsibilities. Adults will need to guide students in completing their camp chores.

Meals	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Breakfast		Oatmeal, muffins, fruit, and juice or milk	Dry cereal, bagels with cream cheese, fruit, and juice or milk
Lunch	Bag lunch from home	Cold cuts and cheese sandwiches, carrots and celery, and lemonade	Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, chips, lemonade, and cookies
Snack	Granola bars and apple slices	Peanut butter crackers and fruit	
Dinner	Pre-cooked chicken w/ BBQ sauce, vegetables, rolls, juice or milk, and S'mores	Hamburgers & hot dogs, bread, salad, juice or milk, and brownies	

Duty Roster	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Tent #1 Duties (Strangler Figs)	Dinner prep	Breakfast cleanup Litter Patrol	Clean girls restroom
Tent #2 Duties (Indigo Snakes)	Clean girls restroom	Lunch prep Dinner cleanup	Breakfast cleanup
Tent #3 Duties (Florida Panthers)	Flag duty	Clean girls restroom Flag duty	Litter patrol
Tent #4 Duties (Red-Shouldered Hawks)	Dinner cleanup	Breakfast prep Clean boys restroom	Chickee & sunrise kits
Tent #5 Duties (Mosquito Fish)	Clean boys restroom	Lunch cleanup Dinner prep	Clean boys restroom

18 *Group Gear Checklist*

Use this checklist as a guide for gathering and packing group gear.

Purchased	Packed	# Needed	Item
		1	Complete first aid kit
		3-4	48-quart ice chests
		2	5-gallon water coolers
		1-3	Propane cooking stoves and fuels
		5	Bottles of insect repellent
		2-4	Camp flashlights and extra batteries
		1	Roll of plastic or duct tape
		5	Boxes of wooden, safety matches
		3	Large soup spoons
		1	Large frying pan
		2	Sauce pans
		2	Large serving dishes
		1 ea.	Ladle, knife, long tongs, spatula
		6	Large serving spoons
		1	Colander
		2	Can openers
		4	Plastic storage containers
		2	Extra mess kits (reusable plates, cups, and utensils)
		4	Pot holders
		4 ea.	Dish towels, sponges
		1	Bag of charcoal (Use charcoal starters at camp rather than lighter fluid)
		1	Package of aluminum foil
		1	Roll of paper towels or napkins
		1	Bottle of dishwashing liquid
		1	Small bottle of bleach
		2-3	Battery-operated lanterns (optional)

Six-Week Countdown List 19

Week 6	
	If needed, request permission for out-of-county travel. Hidden Lake is in Miami-Dade County and Loop Road is in Monroe County.
	Determine criteria and begin student selection.
	Arrange for parent meeting.

Week 3	
	Begin pre-site activities.
	Discuss expectations for behavior.
	Collect all payments.

Week 5	
	Select 5-8 chaperones (1:5 ratio).
	Arrange for transportation by bus or private vehicles.
	Arrange for a vehicle to carry equipment and to remain at camp as an emergency vehicle.
	If needed, request permission for use of private vehicles.

Week 2	
	Collect permission slips.
	Conduct meeting with chaperones for final planning, emergency procedures, and expectations.

Week 4	
	Finalize student selections (15-26 students).
	Begin menu planning.
	Begin dialogue with assigned ranger.
	Conduct parent meeting.

Week 1	
	Check equipment.
	Organize and pack for trip.
	Assign tent groups to camp duties.
	Assign students and chaperones to tents. Hidden Lake's tents are named; Loop Road campers can make tent signs with their own mascots.

* Blank spaces are included so that you can add tasks.

Personal Gear Checklist for Camping

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Everglades National Park
Florida

Campers and Parents:

Here is a checklist of items you will need for your camping trip. Remember it can get very cold at night in the Everglades. Warm clothing is strongly recommended. Please check each item as it is packed in your duffel bag or pillowcase. Parents, make sure you have checked all the items and signed the bottom of this sheet.

	Sleeping bag or 2 blankets		3 pairs of long pants (1 pair will get wet)
	Pillow		2-3 short sleeve shirts
	Duffel bag or pillowcase		2 long sleeve shirts
	Toothbrush		3-4 pairs of underwear
	Toothpaste		4 pairs of socks
	Face soap		2-3 pairs of closed-toed walking shoes (1 pair will get wet) - regular sneakers are great
	Deodorant		Sweater or sweatshirt
	Towel		Jacket (windbreaker)
	Washcloth		Raincoat or poncho
	Approved medications with name on bottle (The teacher will control all medications.)		Warm hat
	2 plastic garbage bags (for wet items and dirty laundry)		Sun hat
	Mess kit: plastic plate, drinking cup, fork, and spoon		Gloves
	Reusable water bottle		Insect repellent (No aerosols please)
	Flashlight with extra batteries		Bag lunch for the first day

Optional items: tissues, bandana

Remember this is a nature experience, please do not bring the following items: candy, chewing gum, extra food, electronics, games, balls, cameras, cell phones, or money. Please keep in mind that your student must be able to carry all of their gear from the bus to the campsite.

Student

Parent or Guardian

Lista de Efectos Personales para Acampar

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Everglades National Park
Florida

Excursionistas y Padres:

A continuación les ofrecemos una lista de artículos que necesitará. Recuerde que las noches en los Everglades pueden ser extremadamente frías. Se recomienda traer ropa adecuada para temperaturas bajas. Por favor, marque cada uno de los artículos a medida que los empaqueta en su bolsa de lona o funda. Padres, asegúrense de haber marcado todos los artículos y firmar al pie de la lista.

	Saco de dormir o 2 frazadas		3 pares de pantalones largos (1 par que se va a mojar)
	Almohada		2-3 camisetas (T-shirts)
	Bolsa de lona o funda		2 camisas de manga larga
	Cepillo de dientes		3-4 mudas de ropa interior
	Pasta de dientes		4 pares de medias
	Jabón		2-3 pares de zapatos cerrados (1 par que se pueda mojar)
	Desodorante		Suéter o jersey
	Toalla		Chaqueta impermeable (windbreaker)
	Toallita para lavarse		Capa de agua o poncho
	Medicinas permitidas con el nombre (El maestro controlará todos los medicamentos.)		Gorro tejido (para el frío)
	2 bolsas plásticas de basura (para los artículos mojados y la ropa sucia)		Sombrero para el sol
	Plato plástico, vaso, tenedor, y cuchara		Guantes
	Botella reutilizable (para agua)		Repelente de insectos líquido (no aerosol)
	Linterna de mano con baterías de repuesto		Bolsa con almuerzo para el primer día

Artículos opcionales: pañuelos de papel (Kleenex®), bandana

Recuerde que esta es una experiencia de contacto con la naturaleza. Por favor no traiga ninguno de los artículos siguientes: caramelos, goma de mascar, comida extra, electrónicas, juegos, pelotas, cámaras fotográficas, juegos de computadora, teléfonos celulares, o dinero. Por favor, recuerde que su estudiante tendrá que transportar todos los efectos personales que traiga desde el autobus hasta el campamento.

Estudiante

Padre o Guardián

Everglades National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Everglades National Park
Florida

Camping Program Chaperone Guidelines

Thank you for volunteering to chaperone Everglades National Park's Education program. You are an important partner in our program. We need your participation and cooperation for a successful trip to the Everglades.

Be an active participant!

Joining in on the activities allows you to interact with and set a good example for the students. Be prepared for canoeing and slogging (hiking in water).

Students will need your guidance when preparing meals and cleaning up.

By jumping right in to help and providing encouraging words, you will be teaching students how to be better helpers.

Students look to adults to set boundaries and provide leadership.

Chaperones are expected to comply with the same rules at camp as the students. You will also be asked to help enforce the rules. This includes wearing long pants, socks, and shoes at all times, respecting plants and animals (no harassing or removing), and showing respect for others.

Assisting with safety is one of the primary chaperone duties.

By watching over your group, you will help to ensure that everyone has a safe outing.

Guide the learning process!

Please help keep the group's attention focused on what the ranger or teacher is saying, and encourage the students to answer the questions.

Most importantly, go with the flow, adapt, and have fun in the Everglades! The students pick up on how you react; if you are having fun, they will too.

Programa de campismo - Guía para los acompañantes

Gracias por ofrecerse como acompañante voluntario para el programa educacional del Parque Nacional de los Everglades. Usted es una parte muy importante de nuestro programa. Necesitamos su ayuda y cooperación para que la excursión a los Everglades sea todo un éxito.

¡Sea un participante activo!

El tomar parte en las actividades le permite tener contacto con los estudiantes y darles un buen ejemplo. Esté preparado para dar un paseo en canoa o una caminata por terrenos cubiertos de agua.

Los estudiantes necesitarán su ayuda para preparar las comidas y para la limpieza del campamento.

Al ofrecerse para ayudar y darles palabras de aliento, usted estará enseñando a los estudiantes como ayudar mejor a los demás.

Los estudiantes esperan que los adultos impongan limites y pautas a seguir.

Se espera que los acompañantes cumplan las mismas reglas del campamento que se les exige a los estudiantes. En ocasiones se necesitará su ayuda para hacer que estas reglas se cumplan. Se incluye el uso en todo momento de pantalones largos, medias, y zapatos, respetar las plantas y los animales (no se permite molestar ni sacar plantas o animales del parque), y respetar a las demás personas.

Ayudar con el cumplimiento de las reglas de seguridad es uno de los deberes principales de los acompañantes.

Al cuidar de su grupo, usted hará su parte para que todos tengan un paseo seguro y sin peligros.

¡Guíe el proceso de aprendizaje!

Por favor, ayude a mantener la atención del grupo concentrada en lo que el guardaparque o el maestro enseña, y aliente a los estudiantes a contestar las preguntas.

¡Lo más importante es adaptarse, ir con la corriente, y divertirse en los Everglades! Los estudiantes se fijan en como usted reacciona. Si usted se divierte, ellos también lo harán.

Evaluations 23

In an effort to continually improve the programming we provide, both the ranger and the teacher exchange evaluations after the camp. The following points are listed on the evaluations, but there is also space provided for general comments.

Ranger's Evaluation of the Teacher

Pre-Visit Planning

- Logistical preparations for the trip, including emergency forms/phone numbers, pre-visit call to park, selecting students, and travel arrangements were completed as required.
- A pre-visit rule review with students was evident.
- Pre-visit Everglades ecology training was evident.
- Transportation to and from the site was appropriate.
- Chaperones were aware of assigned tasks and their responsibilities for students in advance of the trip.
- Tent assignments were made prior to arrival at camp.

On-Site Organization

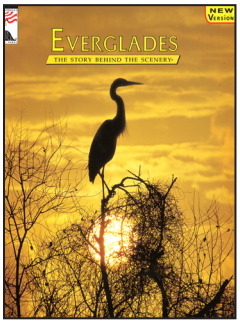
- The group arrived on time.
- Participants were on time for scheduled activities.
- The rules were followed.
- Meals and clean up were completed according to schedule.
- Environmentally sensitive food service was used – no paper plates, cups, lighter fluid, etc.
- Clean up of restrooms, campfire, grill, tents, chickee, and litter met camp standards and was completed on schedule.
- Park equipment, tents, activity kits, scopes, etc., were cared for and used properly.
- Student behavior, including noise level and responsiveness to ranger was appropriate.
- The group demonstrated respect for the resource.
- The chaperones were cooperative and involved.
- The chaperones showed concern for the safety of the students.

Teacher's Evaluation of the Ranger

- The ranger showed concern for the safety of the participants.
- The ranger was on time for all activities.
- The ranger's programs were presented in a clear and appealing manner that was appropriate for the age of the students.
- The ranger was responsive to teachers, students, and chaperones.
- The ranger-led program was easily understood, engaging, and age-appropriate
- The ranger was a good role model and consistently demonstrated concern for the environment.
- The program met my teaching objectives.
- The experience helped students develop an understanding of Everglades National Park's value to the web of life in South Florida.
- This experience gave students an appreciation for their total environment, both natural and human-made.
- The Ranger facilitated a positive learning experience.

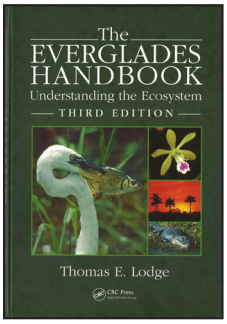
24 Resources

The following resources are just a few recommendations for educators and students to learn more about the Everglades.



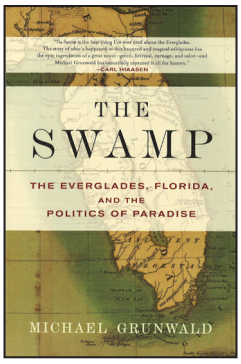
Everglades: The Story Behind the Scenery

Jack de Golia, KC Publications, 1978



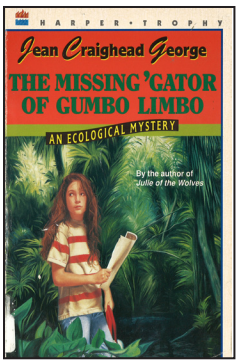
The Everglades Handbook

Thomas E. Lodge, CRC Press, 2010 (3rd ed.)



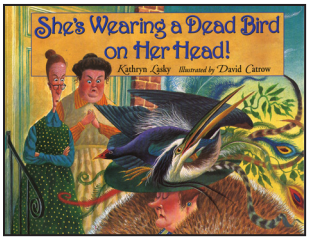
The Swamp

Michael Grunwald, Pineapple Press, 2006



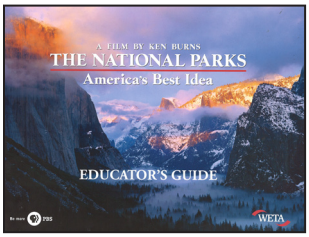
The Missing Gator of Gumbo Limbo

Jean Craighead George, Harper, 1992



She's Wearing a Dead Bird on Her Head!

Kathryn Lasky, Hyperion Books, 1995



The National Parks: America's Best Idea

Film and Educators Guide, Ken Burns, PBS, 2009

Web Resources

Everglades National Park
www.nps.gov/ever

Big Cypress National Preserve
www.nps.gov/bicy

Biscayne National Park
www.nps.gov/bisc

Dry Tortugas National Park
www.nps.gov/drto

South Florida Natural Resource Center
www.nps.gov/ever/naturescience/sfnrc.htm

FIU Everglades Digital Library
everglades.fiu.edu

USGS South Florida Information Access
sofia.usgs.gov/virtual_tour/kids

South Florida Water Management District
www.sfwmd.gov

Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan
www.evergladesplan.org

South Florida National Parks Trust
www.southfloridaparks.org

PBS Teachers, Exploring the National Parks
www.pbs.org/teachers/connect/resources/7261/preview

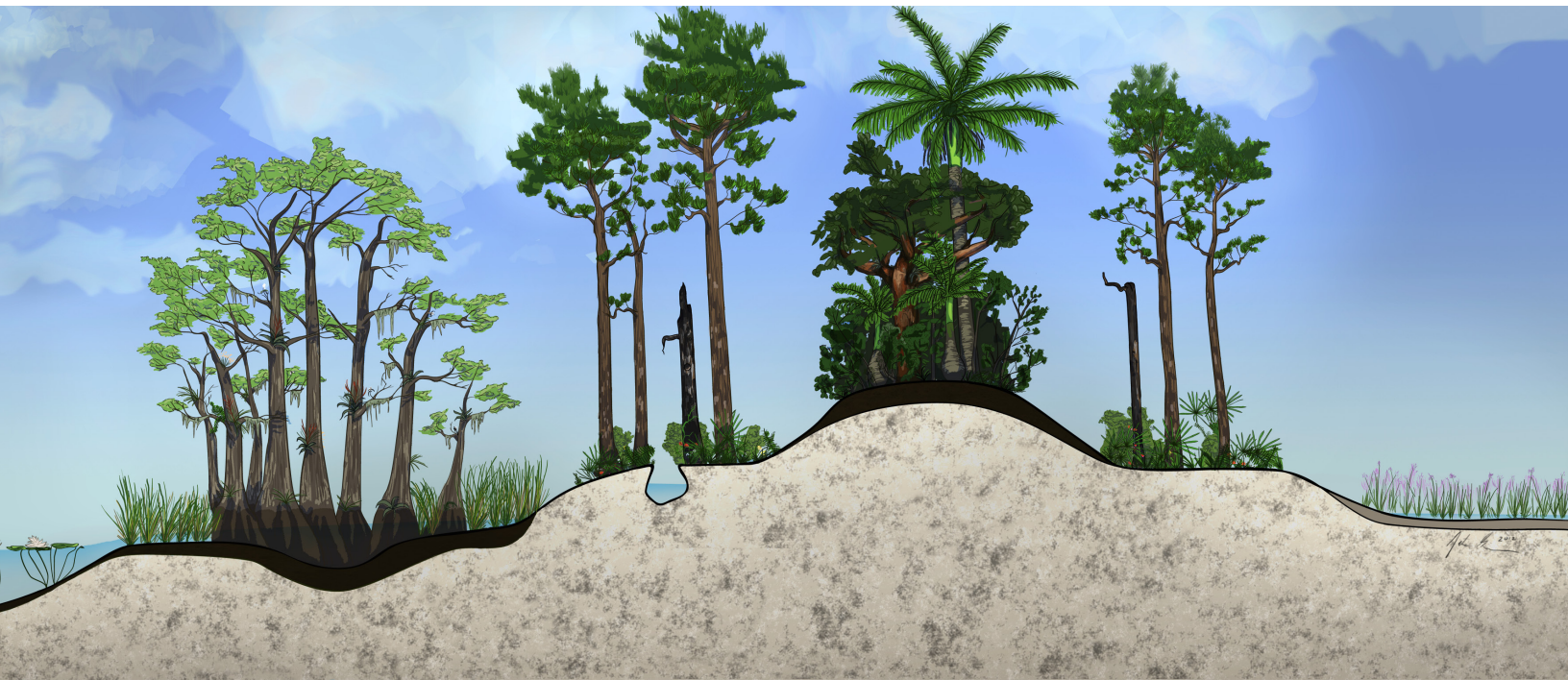
Everglades Association

www.evergladesassociation.org

The official cooperating association of Everglades NP, the Everglades Association, operates several bookstores in park visitor centers and also maintains an online store. Purchase orders from schools receive a 10% discount. The Everglades online store has a section for Educators and Children.

"...to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same... and... leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

~ National Park Service Mission



Everglades National Park
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Education Office
305 242-7753
www.nps.gov/ever/forteachers

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