

Inaugural 'A Day in the Life of the Lake Worth Lagoon' Event Engages Students in Hands-On Lagoon Research to Foster Environmental Stewardship

Lake Worth Lagoon, FL – October 2024 – The Ocean Research & Conservation Association (ORCA) is excited to announce the inaugural "A Day in the Life of the Lake Worth Lagoon" (ADIL) on October 17, 2024. This event brings together students, teachers, volunteers, and environmental experts to gather essential water quality data and biological inventories across key sites along the lagoon. ADIL, designed for students in grades 4-12, inspires a deeper understanding of the lagoon's ecosystem while addressing its environmental stressors. Participants will engage in hands-on research, measuring key parameters such as temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, pH, and nutrient concentrations like nitrate and phosphate. The data is publicly accessible, and educators are encouraged to integrate it into classroom lessons, science fairs, and ongoing research.

Over 10,000 teachers, students, and citizen scientists have participated in similar collaborative efforts over the years through ORCA's A Day in the Life of the Indian River Lagoon. This first year, ADIL of the Lake Worth Lagoon will involve over 120 students from local schools, working with environmental organizations to foster stewardship and deepen understanding of the lagoon's ecological health. According to Missy Weiss, ORCA's Director of Citizen Science, "We are thrilled to expand 'A Day in the Life' into Lake Worth Lagoon. This growth represents an incredible opportunity to engage more students and communities in understanding and protecting our estuaries, fostering a new generation of environmental stewards."

WHEN: Thursday, October 17, 2024

WHERE: At various waterfront locations along Lake Worth Lagoon (Times vary. For specific times and sampling locations, please contact Lauren Tracy at Ltracy@teamorca.org or call 772-562-9052)

Partners for ORCA's A Day in the Life of the Lake Worth Lagoon include:

Conniston Middle School
Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management
Royal Palm Beach High School
Wellington High School
Youth Environmental Alliance
Ocean Research & Conservation Association (ORCA)

A Day in the Life is made possible with support from project sponsors: Bernard A. Egan Foundation, Inc., Florida Power & Light Company, through its charitable arm the NextEra Energy Foundation, Glenn W. Bailey Foundation, and The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation.

ADIL is one of four citizen science projects at the Ocean Research & Conservation Association (ORCA), a Vero Beach-based non-profit organization focused on preserving aquatic ecosystems through science, restoration, advocacy, and education. For more information, visit www.teamorca.org.

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