

5-Page Information Sheet and Registration Form for Field Trips to Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station

NOTICE: See website or contact Ariel or Rob to confirm the two days of week (M-F) that field trips are held in any given semester. Times are flexible, but normally and approx. 9:00/9:30am to 12:30/1:00pm. Minimum 3rd Grade-aged students. Contact Ariel Ebanks, Community Engagement/Education Coordinator (ariel.ebanks@selu.edu, cell phone: 985-710-4259) or Dr. Rob Moreau, Manager (rmoreau@selu.edu, cell phone: 504-231-1067) for more information.

INTRODUCTION

The Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station provides field trips two days per week during selected week days (M-F during Spring and Fall semesters, and M-Th during Summer semesters) for university classes (Southeastern and other universities), K-12 schools from around the region, and other community groups interested in the history, science, and human culture of the wetlands in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin. All groups meet at our Turtle Cove Boatshed/Classroom Facility in Manchac, LA (see “Directions” further down). Timeframes for the entire trip (arrival to and departure from the Galva Boatshed) are somewhat variable, but most groups follow our standard generic timeframe range of approximately 9:30am thru 12:30pm. **SEE WEBSITE or ASK MANAGER FOR FIELD TRIP DAYS DURING CURRENT SEMESTER.**

All groups are led by Turtle Cove staff (Education Coordinator, or Manager, and/or Graduate Students from the Department of Biological Sciences). In addition, the Turtle Cove Caretaker/Facilities Technician, Hayden Reno, is on site as the Caretaker/Boat Captain. A centerpiece of most all of our field trips is the Pontoon Boat ride down Pass Manchac, which is provided by a covered 40’ x 12’ commercial-grade pontoon touring boat. The boat seats approximately **32-35 people (depending on size), including parents, teachers, and TC staff.** (Total capacity is 10,000 lbs comprised of motors, fuel, goods, and passengers). Thus, each group is limited to approximately 30 persons. Double groups (of up to 65-70 individuals) can be booked during the same day if staff resources are available (i.e., half the group would do the boat ride while the other half does other activities, then the groups are reversed)—this usually not a problem. See various schedules on next page.

Subject areas discussed through lecture and visual observation include: natural history of the physical environment; environmental history (social, economic, and cultural aspects); impacts of cypress deforestation and ecosystem restoration; and physical and socioeconomic impacts of (and solutions to) wetland loss and coastal erosion. Groups may expect to see a variety of flora and fauna (i.e., alligators, snakes, birds, mammals, fish, and invertebrates).

COST

There is no cost for our Turtle Cove field trips and we do not accept any donations for field trips.

WAIVER REQUIREMENT

IMPORTANT: The following forms must be completed, signed, and given to the Southeastern-Approved Captain prior to departure (for copies of the forms, visit <http://www.selu.edu/turtlecove> “Forms & Policies”):

1. A standard “Hold Harmless” waiver (each participant signs this form and brings with them before getting on boat).
2. The “Rules for Group Field Trips” (the Authorized Group Representative signs this form and reviews the rules with the group prior to the trip).

Generic Field Trip Options/Schedules

Field Trip Option 1 for Standard Group of 32-35 or less total individuals

Led By: Turtle Cove Staff and GAs

Time Frame: approx 3-4 hours (approx. 9:30am-12:30/1:00pm latest ending time)

Cost: Free (donations gratefully accepted—see above for more info)

This is the standard base level trip that we have historically offered. This field trip option consists of the following activities and is provided with a “generic time-line schedule” of activities---this schedule can be customized to meet your group’s particular needs and time requirements---but the actual time frame of the trips depends on our students’ availability. **All groups should bring their own drinking water, proper clothing for weather conditions, sunscreen, hats, etc.**

- 9:15/9:30am Group Arrives at Turtle Cove Boatshed/Classroom Complex at Galva Canal in Manchac, LA/Bathroom break (only one toilet at Boatshed)/Orientation of Facilities
- 9:30-10:15 Introductory Power Point Lecture on the *History of Coastal Louisiana and the Environmental, Socio-Economic and Cultural Impacts of Coastal Wetland Loss and Potential Solutions to the Problem*
- 10:15-11:15 Pontoon Boat ride down Pass Manchac to Lake Pontchartrain (if time/conditions allow) then to Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station w/continued discussion on wetland issues
- 11:15-12:00 Guided Boardwalk Tour (including dip-netting) behind Turtle Cove—group may eat lunch on picnic tables there or on boardwalk (4 Bathrooms available at Turtle Cove).
- 12:00-12:30 Pontoon Boat ride back to Galva Canal Boatshed (our grad students usually need to be back to Galva Canal boatshed to make 1:00 pm classes on campus in Hammond)
- 12:30/1:00pm Wrap-Up and Depart

Field Trip Option 2: Double Group (65-70 total individuals)

Led By: Turtle Cove Graduate Staff and GAs

Time Frame: approx 3-4 hours (approx. 9:30am-12:30/1:00pm latest ending time)

Cost: Free (donations gratefully accepted, see above for more info)

This is the standard base level trip that we have historically offered that addresses the need for a “double group” (two groups of 35). This field trip option consists of the following activities and is provided with a “generic time-line schedule” of activities---this schedule can be customized to meet your groups particular needs and time requirements, but again, depends on our student’s availability during that semester.

9:15/9:30am Group Arrives at Turtle Cove Boatshed/Classroom Complex at Galva Canal in Manchac, LA/Bathroom break (only one toilet at Boat Shed)/Orientation of Facilities

9:30-11:00am

GROUP A (30+ individuals) – (upstairs in Boatshed Classroom) - Introductory Power Point Lecture on the *History of Coastal Louisiana and the Environmental, Socio-Economic and Cultural Impacts of Coastal Wetland Loss and Potential Solutions to the Problem* // (downstairs in Boatshed parking lot area) Wetland Plant identification and Water Quality Sampling and I.D. (could do early lunch at 10:45 am on picnic tables under boatshed).

GROUP B (30+ individuals) - Pontoon Boat ride down Pass Manchac to the Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station w/continued discussion on wetland issues/Guided Boardwalk Tour (including dip-netting) behind Turtle Cove/Return to Galva Canal Boatshed

11:00-12:30pm (Groups Reverse)

GROUP B (30+ individuals) – LUNCH at Picnic Tables under Boatshed (upstairs in Boatshed Classroom) - Introductory Power Point Lecture on the *History of Coastal Louisiana and the Environmental, Socio-Economic and Cultural Impacts of Coastal Wetland Loss and Potential Solutions to the Problem* // (downstairs in Boatshed parking lot area) Wetland Plant identification and Water Quality Sampling and I.D.//

GROUP A (35 individuals) - Pontoon Boat ride down Pass Manchac to the Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station w/continued discussion wetland issues/ Guided Boardwalk Tour (including dip-netting) behind Turtle Cove/4 Bathrooms at Turtle Cove/Return to Galva Canal Boat Shed//(LUNCH can be at Turtle Cove or on Pontoon Boat)

12:30/1:00pm Once everyone is back at Galva Canal Boatshed, Wrap-Up/Depart (NOTE: GAs usually need to be done by 12:30pm for 1:00pm classes on campus).

DIRECTIONS TO TURTLE COVE BOATSHED/CLASSROOM AT GALVA CANAL IN MANCHAC (AKERS), LA

The field trips begin at the Galva Canal Classroom/Boat Shed, which are south of Pass Manchac in St. John the Baptist Parish, off US Hwy 51. Galva Canal is approximately one hour from New Orleans and Baton Rouge or 25 minutes from Hammond. The official address is 87 Alligator Lane, Akers, LA 70421 (GPS Coordinates: 30° 16' 35.4" N and 90° 23' 53.4" W).

1. From New Orleans/LaPlace, travel north on Interstate-55. From Baton Rouge or Hammond, travel south on I-55.
2. From I-55, take Exit 15 toward Manchac.
3. Turn right (south) onto Hwy 51—also noted on a sign there as “Frontage Road.” Pass Middendorf’s Restaurant on your left.
4. Cross the bridge over Pass Manchac, taking you to the south side of the Pass.
5. After the bridge, travel about 1/4 of a mile and turn left onto an asphalt road that crosses over the railroad tracks (it’s the second left possible)—there are green road signs on each side of HWY 51 there stating “Southeastern Turtle Cove ERS.”
6. **Stop and look both ways as you approach and cross the railroad tracks!!!**
7. After crossing the tracks, turn right immediately. This road curves and takes you to a yellow iron-pipe gate, which should be open when you arrive.
8. Enter into the Manchac Wildlife Management Area/Southeastern Turtle Cove Boat Shed Area at Galva Canal.
9. Continue 100 yards from the gate until you come to Southeastern/Turtle Cove section of the property marked with green “Parking” signs in front of the boat shed. Overflow parking is against the marsh still further right.

WHAT TO BRING ON THE FIELD TRIP

Among other necessary items, remember to bring your own water, food, and mosquito spray and to dress appropriately for the weather (hat/sunscreen for hot; jacket for cold). Binoculars are helpful for viewing wildlife. While on the pontoon boat, children age 15 and younger must wear life jackets. Everyone wears life jackets while in canoes and other vessels. Alcohol, smoking, and behavior detracting from a safe and meaningful educational experience are prohibited.

CONTACT INFORMATION (AND TO SCHEDULE A TRIP)

Contact Ariel Ebanks or Robert Moreau to schedule your trip as far in advance as possible (easiest way is to send Ariel an email and attach completed “Registration Form”(next page of this document, or go back to website under “Field Trips”---includes info such as name of group; number in group; cell phone contact; donation info; lunch preferences; etc). The other staff contacts may be useful on the day of your field trip.

Dr. Robert Moreau
(Manager)
(504)231-1067
rmoreau@selu.edu

Ariel Ebanks (Community
Engagement/Ed. Coord.)
(985)710-4259
Ariel.ebanks@selu.edu

Hayden Reno (Caretaker)
(985)507-7710
hreno@selu.edu

Turtle Cove Field Trip Registration Form

To request a field trip, fill out this portion of the *Field Trip Information Summary Sheet and Registration Form* and email entire form back to: ariel.ebanks@selu.edu or rmoreau@selu.edu. You can also contact Ariel Ebanks (985-710-4259) or Rob Moreau (504-231-1067), but you'll need to end up answering these questions either way for me to make your field trip reservation on our calendar.

Name of Group (i.e., XXX Middle School)

Preferred Field Trip Day (give a couple of back up dates as well)

Preferred Field Trip Time (only if different from Generic Schedules listed previously under Options 1 and 2 on previous pages—i.e., 9/9:30am-12:30/1:00pm---NOTE: in this example, you would arrive at Galva Canal Boat Shed Manchac at 9:30am (or whatever time your group can get there) and depart Galva Canal Boat Shed at 12:30/1:00pm—our GA's usually must be done by 12:30pm to make 1:00pm classes on campus in Hammond)

Contact Name for Field Trip (i.e., Jane Doe, teacher)

Contact Name Email Address

Contact Name Phone Number (i.e., XXX Middle School office phone #)

Contact Name Cell Phone # (very important in case need to contact day-of for weather related issues, cancellations, etc.)

of Participants Expected (i.e., # of students)

of Chaperones/Teachers/Adults Expected

Total # of Participants Expected (total # of students plus chaperones/teachers/adults)

NOTE #1: Get directions on previous pages

NOTE #2: Don't forget to download Waiver (Hold Harmless) forms and have each student and adult bring signed copy to Field Trip (will need to turn these in prior to boarding Pontoon Boat). Get forms from main website at www.selu.edu on same pages as "Field Trips."

NOTE #3: Before the trip, have group watch "Troubled Waters: History of the Manchac Swamp Ecosystem and Turtle Cove" (bottom of website) for good background information.