

What others have to say about LIFE

“More than 3,300 future scientists and environmental stewards have participated in the LIFE program since 2004, and we look forward to inspiring even more in the future.”

Michael W. Sole,
Secretary,
Department of Environmental Protection

“We are excited about the environmental science opportunities for our students Conducting hands-on experiments and real life research right in the environment is a terrific benefit for our students.”

Dr. Joseph Joyner,
Superintendent, St. Johns County Schools

“Thanks for everything you all have done to support this awesome program.”

Keith Hatcher
Principal, Fort White High School

“This experience fosters students’ environmental stewardship of our natural resources while supplementing their current school curriculum.”

Jo Ann Gander
Superintendent, Franklin County Schools

“I have learned that through engaging and exploring, students can grasp scientific information and internalize these concepts because of the real world experiences they are involved in because of our program.”

Irene “Trini” Johannesen
Middle School Science Teacher
Fort White Middle School

How to support the LIFE Program:

- ✓ Become a partner educator at an existing LIFE Program site.
- ✓ Host a field experience at your park or research station.
- ✓ Support travel costs to bring students to the field.
- ✓ Support professional development activities for teachers.
- ✓ Sponsor a field lab activity.

For more information on how you can support science education in Florida’s environment contact:

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Environmental Education
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS-30
Tallahassee, FL 32399

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/secretary/ed/default.htm>

Phone: 850.245.2130



Michael W. Sole, FDEP Secretary



What is the LIFE Program?

Learning in Florida's Environment (LIFE) is an initiative to establish a series of field-based, environmental-science education programs around the state.

Each program represents a partnership between the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and a local school district.

The goal of each LIFE Program site is increased student achievement and teacher professional development in science education.

The LIFE Program is not a curriculum, but a process for reinforcing and enriching the existing curriculum through hands-on, field labs facilitated by educators, scientists, and land managers from the Department of Environmental Protection.



Students prepare to measure the salinity of water.

What are the characteristics of the LIFE Programs?

While the content and delivery of each program varies from site to site, each LIFE Program shares a core set of guiding principles:

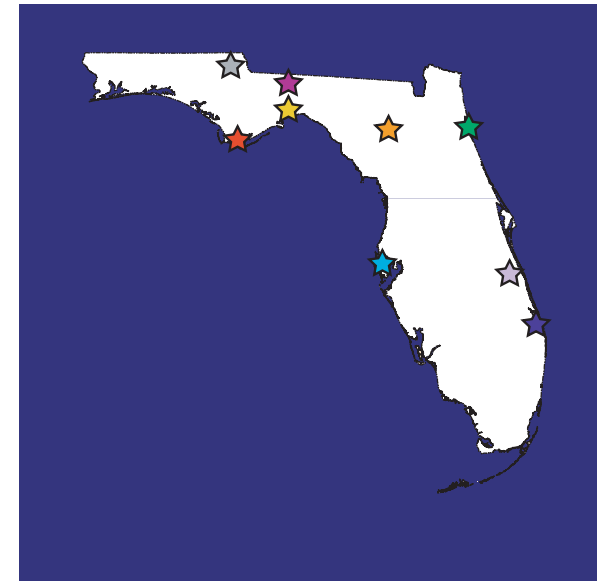
- Alignment with Florida Sunshine State standards.
- Multi-day, field experiences emphasizing current technologies for environmental science serve as the entry-point for learning.
- Emphasis on observation and inference as critical components of the scientific method.
- Long-term partnerships between DEP and a local school district(s) that include teacher professional development.
- Program content derived from teacher identified needs.
- Integration of all subject areas by connecting field experiences with pre- and post-classroom lessons.
- Focus on underrepresented and underserved audiences.



Teachers familiarize themselves with a field lab on soil analysis.

Where is the LIFE Program?

The LIFE program began in Apalachicola with its first partnership in 2004 with Franklin County Schools. Today there are nine LIFE sites throughout the state.



- ★ Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve
- ★ Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park
- ★ Florida Caverns
- ★ Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve
- ★ Honeymoon Island
- ★ Ichetucknee Springs State Park
- ★ Leon Springs Geological Area
- ★ Savannas Preserve State Park
- ★ St. Sebastian River Preserve