

Connections in Matanzas Pass Preserve



Connection Inspection and Ed's Diary are developed by The Institute for Earth Education with modifications for use by Lee County Parks & Recreation and the Friends of Matanzas Pass Preserve.

** Both pre and post activity suggestions are provided.



Call the Earth Ed Committee Chair, Dorothy Rodwell, at 851-7166 or email drodwell@embarqmail.com to schedule your group and to receive your application

2015 Interactive Earth Ed. Program 4th Grade



Matanzas Pass Preserve,
Fort Myers Beach



~Learning Where We Live~
Connection Inspection and Ed's Diary

4th Grade Experiential Environmental Education

Does your 4th grader enjoy discovering connections in nature?

How would he/she like to be a Connector Inspector?

Connection Inspection is the training course that begins that lifelong journey.

There's a lot going on in our Preserve and getting into the flow of really seeing and hearing what is happening can include a walk deep into the Preserve on boardwalks and primitive trails. **Ed's Diary** gives us a look at what connections exist between plants and animals.

You may choose to participate in Connection Inspection or both programs on the same visit.



Choice 1: Connection Inspection

Group Size: 12-34

Concept: Ecological Concept: Interrelationships

Setting: Maritime Hammock of

Matanzas Pass Preserve

Season: October through November &

April through May

Program Length: 60 minutes

Fee: \$2 per student**

Connection Inspection is a highly participatory and stimulating ecological concept building learning experience. Participants are welcomed to the Connector Inspector's Training Course where they learn that nothing can exist by itself: everything is connected to other things in the web of life. They then take on various roles of plants and animals, and using color cords, they create a web of life by showing where they get their basic needs of life: air, water, soil nutrients, and sunlight energy. A large web of life is created when all participants "make their connections" and are physically lined to each other and posts representing the sun, a pond, a rain cloud, and the ground. Once the web is complete, participants are shown what happens when just one wrong decision is made and the web of life starts to unravel. Each person is encouraged to be a Connector Inspector to prevent such situations.

Choice 2: Connection Inspection and Ed's Diary

Program Length: 60 minutes and 60 minutes – Some groups bring lunch to eat between sessions.

Fee: \$4 per student

Ed's Diary is a ramble (walk for pleasure) that discovers plants and animals and the connections between them. The web of life comes alive for the new Connector Inspectors.

Ed is a friend of Matanzas Pass Preserve (related to Earth Ed) who has been visiting for years and we have recently found his diary which we will be using for this ramble. There is also a crude map that each person will use to discover some of the same connections that he saw.

We will use both boardwalk and primitive trails. The primitive trail can be muddy so play clothes and shoes are requested.

For more information...

Contact Dorothy Rodwell, Friend of Matanzas Pass Preserve, Lee County Parks and Recreation Volunteer and Florida Master Naturalist at 239-851-7166 for more information.