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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 22, 2011

2011 ELC Summer Ecology Adventures

Wabasso Island, FL – There are a wide range of events for students of all ages at the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) this summer. Half day adventures are offered to children who are entering pre-kindergarten through the 3rd grade. Full day adventures target students entering the 4th through the 12th grades. The aim of all these programs is to help the student discover and appreciate the variety of living things that populate our Indian River Lagoon, and at the same time, have fun doing it.

There are numerous half day sessions that run for four consecutive days during June and July. “Little Wonders” introduces pre-kindergarten and kindergarten children who are at least 4 years old to nature through eco-activities, stories, and crafts. “Young Explorers” for those entering the 1st grade explores the forests, gardens, and trails on the ELC’s island campus. “Our Living World” is an opportunity for those entering the 2nd and 3rd grades to learn more about all the plants and animals on the island campus. Participants in the latter program should come ready to get wet! The cost for each child is \$60, or \$50 for ELC Members, for the 4 day session.

Numerous full day sessions that run for 3 days are available for those entering the 4th through 7th grades. “Island Adventure” for those entering the 4th and the 5th grade, will be spent exploring the barrier island and several islands in the Indian River Lagoon by canoeing, hiking, biking, beachcombing, seining, and boating. “Marine Safari” for those entering the 6th and the 7th grades will discover marine life through snorkeling, canoeing, beachcombing, and boating. The cost for each student is \$125, or \$115 for ELC Members, for the 3 day program.

A real adventure is in store for students entering the 8th through the 12th grades. Beginning June 12 at 9 AM and ending at noon on June 16, the student will spend five days and four nights discovering our local “wild” waters. It is a true camping experience that includes snorkeling, boating, and kayaking. The cost is \$475 per student, or \$465 for ELC members, for the five day program.

There are numerous dates scheduled during June and July for all of the programs for pre-kindergarten children through students entering the 7th grade. The schedule is available on line at www.DiscoverELC.org. To register for any of the programs or get additional information, call (772)589-5050.

Thanks to generous funding from clubs and individuals, there are a limited number of scholarships available. An application may be requested by calling ELC Naturalist, Rosemary Badger, at (772) 589-5050.

The Environmental Learning Center is located north of Vero Beach off County Road 510 at the end of the Wabasso Bridge. Its 64-acre campus includes exhibit areas, native plant gardens, picnic facilities, gift shop, and visitor center. ELC membership benefits, a list of its many field excursions, Eco-ventures, including nature walks, canoe excursions, and boating adventures can be found at www.DiscoverELC.org.

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