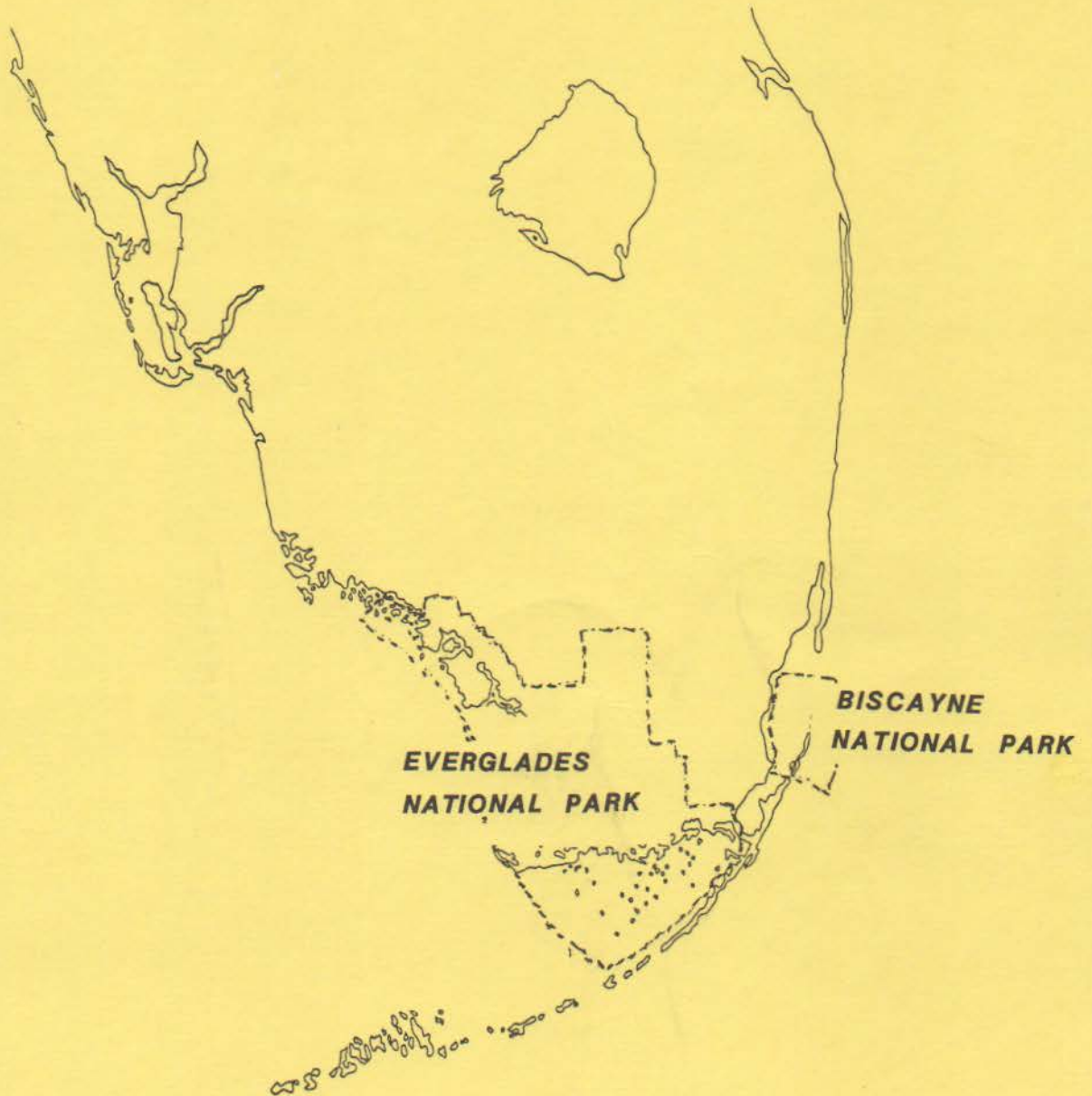


SCHOOL VISITS TO SOUTH FLORIDA NATIONAL PARKS



WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

South Florida is probably more suitable for the study of human interaction with and impact upon natural systems than any other resource area in the United States. Rapid urban development is threatening not only the parks and their water supply, but also the water supply and quality of life of the urban population as well. South Florida's parks provide an ideal laboratory for learning about these and other issues.

The National Park Service invites South Florida schools to participate in a number of Ranger-assisted programs at sites in Big Cypress National Preserve, Biscayne National Park, and Everglades National Park. This book outlines the parks' goals for their school programs; facilities and activities available at each site; and information to facilitate each school's participation.

The National Park Service's school programs have as goals instilling an appreciation for the fragile South Florida ecosystem and provoking a concern for the ecosystem's problems. As today's students become tomorrow's resource users and voters, it is hoped that they will be motivated to help solve these problems.

To achieve its program goals, the National Park Service invites South Florida teachers and their classes to the parks for either one-day or residential camping visits. The teacher, assisted by a ranger, actively leads or participates in portions of the park visit. To prepare for the visit, teachers attend a required workshop in the type of program and location they will later visit with their class. To prepare the students for the visit, teachers cover material in the classroom drawn from their curriculum or from the material provided them at the workshop. Workshop registration forms are on the last page of this booklet.

CONTENTS

	Page
I. <u>Where do I fit in?</u>	
Chart of all programs offered	2
Map of program locations	3
Area descriptions, locations, activities:	
One-day programs	4-6
Camping programs	7-8
II. <u>How do I sign up?</u>	
Trip Registration	9
Calendars	10-11
Workshop Registration	12

WHERE DO I FIT IN?

Check the charts below to see which locations are available for your grade level. Then check the descriptions for each site to see which best suits your students needs and interests. Refer to the map on the next page for program locations.

DAY VISITS

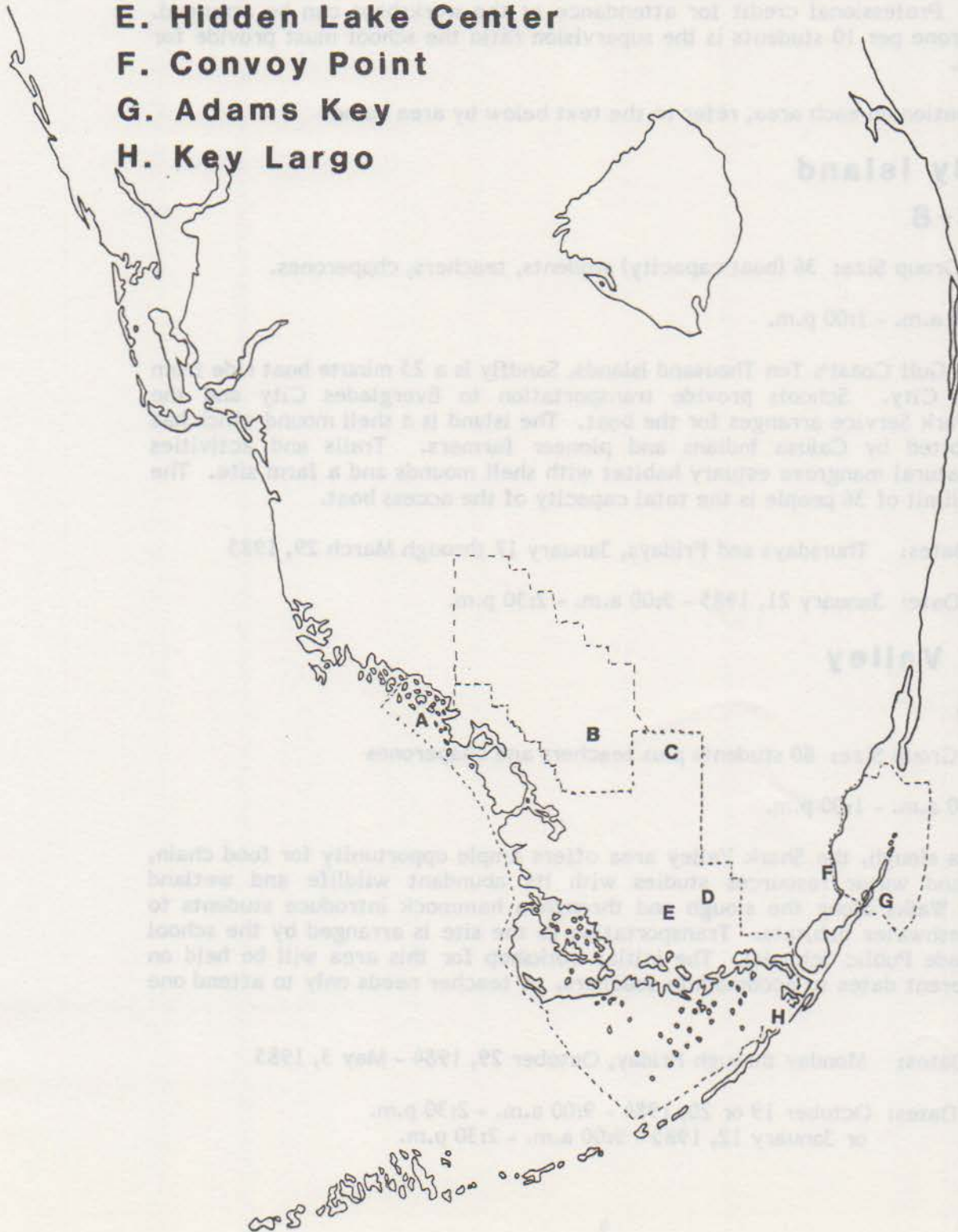
Location	Grade Level												Group Size	Page No.
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12					
<u>Biscayne National Park</u>														
Convoy Point	X	X	X										30	5
Convoy Point							X	X	X	X			20	6
<u>Everglades National Park</u>														
Sandfly Island		X	X	X	X								36	4
Key Largo Ranger Station		X	X	X	X								30	5
Shark Valley	X												60	4
Royal Palm/Long Pine Key			X										60	5
Everglades Institutes								X	X	X	X		10	6

CAMPING VISITS

Location	Grade Level												Group Size	Page No.
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12					
<u>Biscayne National Park</u>														
Adams Key	X	X	X										25	8
<u>Everglades National Park</u>														
Loop Road Center			X										25	7
Hidden Lake Center			X										25	7
Fort Jefferson NM				X	X	X	X	X	X	X			15	8

KEY

- A. Sandfly Island**
- B. Loop Road Center**
- C. Shark Valley**
- D. Royal Palm**
- E. Hidden Lake Center**
- F. Convoy Point**
- G. Adams Key**
- H. Key Largo**



AREA DESCRIPTIONS

Day visits occur in each of five geographical areas within Biscayne and Everglades National Parks. To provide a continuum of experiences for students visiting the park in consecutive years (and thereby eliminating redundancy), locations within Everglades National Park are assigned by grade level. Each location has its own workshop. Professional credit for attendance at the workshops can be arranged. One chaperone per 10 students is the supervision ratio the school must provide for these trips.

For information on each area, refer to the text below by area name.

Sandfly Island

Grades: **5-8**

Maximum Group Size: 36 (boat capacity) students, teachers, chaperones.

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

One of the Gulf Coast's Ten Thousand Islands, Sandfly is a 25 minute boat ride from Everglades City. Schools provide transportation to Everglades City and the National Park Service arranges for the boat. The island is a shell mound which has been inhabited by Calusa Indians and pioneer farmers. Trails and activities contrast natural mangrove estuary habitat with shell mounds and a farm site. The program's limit of 36 people is the total capacity of the access boat.

Program Dates: Thursdays and Fridays, January 17 through March 29, 1985

Workshop Date: January 21, 1985 - 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Shark Valley

Grade: **4**

Maximum Group Size: 60 students plus teachers and chaperones

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

A sawgrass slough, the Shark Valley area offers ample opportunity for food chain, wildlife, and water resources studies with its abundant wildlife and wetland habitats. Walks along the slough and through a hammock introduce students to several freshwater habitats. Transportation to the site is arranged by the school (except Dade Public Schools). The initial workshop for this area will be held on three different dates to accommodate teachers. A teacher needs only to attend one day.

Program Dates: Monday through Friday, October 29, 1984 - May 3, 1985

Workshop Dates: October 19 or 20, 1984 - 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
or January 12, 1985 - 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Royal Palm

Grade: **6**

Group Size: 60 students plus teachers and chaperones

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Royal Palm's activities occur in three different habitat areas: freshwater slough, hardwood hammock, and pinelands. Classes have opportunities for animal, plant, and resource observations and studies. Transportation to this site is arranged by the school (except Dade Public Schools). The initial workshop for this area will be held on three different dates to accommodate teachers. A teacher needs only to attend one day.

Program Dates: Monday through Friday, October 29, 1984 - May 3, 1985.

Workshop Date: October 19 or 20, 1984 - 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
or January 26, 1985, 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Key Largo

Grades: **5-8**

Group Size: 30 students plus teachers and chaperones

Time 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Key Largo Ranger Station is located at marker 98.8 on the bayside of U.S. 1 in Key Largo. Trips to Key Largo investigate the Florida Bay estuary and associated habitats. A marine lab, a hardwood hammock/mangrove walk, and a glass-bottomed boat tour are included in this study.

Program Dates: Tuesday through Thursday, October 10 - December 6, 1984
(except November 22)

Workshop Date: Saturday, September 22, 1984, 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Convoy Point

Grades: **4-6**

Group Size: 30 students plus teachers and chaperones

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Located on the shore of Biscayne Bay, Convoy Point is the site of Biscayne National Park's headquarters and park information center. A 1/2-mile long jetty provides opportunities for studying salt-adapted shoreline plants or plants and animals of the intertidal zone. Open areas and a picnic area are suitable for a wide variety of activities. One and one-half to two hour glass bottom boat trips can include grassbeds, mangrove shoreline, and hard bottom areas with sponges and soft corals. (Boat capacity is the limiting factor on group size and program length.)

Program Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays, November 8 through December 20, 1984
and April 30 through June 13, 1985.

Workshop Dates: November 3, or November 6, 1984, 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. or
March 23, 1985

Convoy Point

Grades: **9-12**

Group Size: 20 students plus teachers and chaperones

Time: 8:45a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Convoy Point and Biscayne Bay provide a variety of suitable habitats for marine studies. Ranger-guided snorkeling trips last 2 ½-3 hours and include basic snorkeling instruction along with exploration of two shallow bay communities (seagrass and hard bottom areas). Mainland areas for teacher-lead activities include a mangrove estuary and rocky shoreline intertidal zone.

The snorkeling trips are limited to students and chaperones who can swim. At least one ranger certified in lifesaving will accompany each trip. Some snorkeling equipment will be available for free loan during the trip. Boat capacity is the limiting factor for group size and program length.

Program Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays, October 2 - November 1, 1984 and July 16 - August 15, 1985.

Workshop Dates: September 15, or October 6, 1984 or June 8, 1985, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Everglades Institutes

Grades: **9-12**

Group Size: 10 Students

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The one day Everglades Institute program has replaced the Students Toward Environmental Participation camping activity for high school students. The Institute is offering a choice of four resource topics, repeated three times each, from January through April of 1985. A group may reserve up to ten of the twenty available spaces. Dates and topics are shown below. If a group wants to camp in the park, separate reservations for the campground group site may be made.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>
January 12	Ten-thousand Islands Human History
January 19	Hydrology of South Florida
January 26	Exotic Invaders of Everglades National Park
February 2	The Role of Fire in the South Florida Ecosystem
February 9	Ten-thousand Islands Human History
February 23	Hydrology of South Florida
March 2	Ten-thousand Islands Human History
March 9	The Role of Fire in the South Florida Ecosystem
March 16	Exotic Invaders of Everglades National Park
March 23	The Role of Fire in the South Florida Ecosystem
March 30	Hydrology of South Florida
April 6	Exotic Invaders of Everglades National Park

Camping visits occur in four areas: Biscayne National Park, Big Cypress National Preserve, Everglades National Park, and Fort Jefferson National Monument. To provide opportunity for the greatest possible number of South Florida students, we ask that a school not repeat a visit to a park's camping program in one year. Everglades camps are either five days (Monday - Friday) or three days (Monday - Wednesday or Wednesday - Friday) in length. Biscayne camps are three days (Monday - Wednesday or Wednesday - Friday) in length. Fort Jefferson camps are three days in length, Tuesday - Thursday. The parks provide program guidance, the site, a Ranger to be with the group 5 - 7 hours per day, and tents for shelter. Schools provide their own transportation to the parks, their own food, and one chaperone per five students. Overnight workshops are offered in three areas to familiarize schools with program opportunities, logistics, and safety considerations. For information on each area's program, refer to the following text.

Loop Road Interpretive Center

Grade: **6**

Group Size: 25 students plus teachers and chaperones

Time: 3 or 5 days

Loop Road Interpretive Center is located 12 miles west of Shark Valley on the Old Loop Road (see page 3) inside Big Cypress National Preserve. This center's facilities consist of an Indian chickee (shelter) with picnic tables and food storage box, five platform tents, barbecue grills, restrooms, and a campfire circle. Study habitats within walking distance include: pinelands, sawgrass, cypress slough and hardwood hammocks. Activities agreed upon by the teacher and rangers might include: Indian cultural demonstrations, early settlers on the Loop Road study, pond study, wet hikes, night walks, hammock discovery hikes, fire ecology studies, and sunrise walks.

Program Dates: November 1984 - April 1985 (refer to page 10 for specific dates)

Workshop Dates: November 17 & 18, 1984 (overnight)

Hidden Lake Interpretive Center

Grade: **6**

Group size: 25 students plus teachers and chaperones

Time: 3 or 5 days

Located on the shore of a three acre freshwater lake, the Hidden Lake Interpretive Center facilities consist of an Indian chickee (shelter) with picnic tables and food storage box, five platform tents, a barbecue grill, restrooms, and a campfire circle. Study habitats within walking distance include: a freshwater slough, sawgrass prairie, hardwood hammocks, pine forests, and man-altered former farmlands. Activities agreed upon by the teacher and rangers might include: off trail hikes, wildlife studies, night walks, campfire programs, art and language skills, and park management problems. Number and type of activities are determined by the length of camp, transportation available, weather conditions, and the objectives of the individual school.

Program Dates: January 1985 - April 1985 (refer to page 10 for specific dates)

Workshop Dates: January 5 & 6, 1985

Fort Jefferson

Grades: **7-12**

Maximum Group Size: 15 (including teachers/chaperones, this is boat capacity)

Time: 3 days

This camp takes place on Garden Key in the Dry Tortugas Islands, 70 miles west of Key West. Opportunities for the study of human impact on marine and island resources in both the 19th and 20th centuries are inherent in this location. All groups do a resource management service project during the camp. Access to and from Key West is provided by the park via a four-hour boat trip each way. In bad weather the captain will cancel the trip (rescheduling possibilities are extremely limited for the same school year). There are no supplies, showers, or drinking water available on the island.

Selection for these 4 camps is made on the merits of an application filled out by the school, which addresses: school objectives for the trip, class preparation, lesson plans for the camp period, and post-camp summary activities.

Program Dates: November 27-29, 1984; March 26-28, 1985; May 14-16, 1985; and May 21-23, 1985.

Workshop Date: Date and location will be arranged to meet schools' and rangers' schedules. 3-4 hours.

Adams Key

Grades: **4-6**

Maximum Group Size: 25 students plus teachers and chaperones

Time: 3 days

Once part of a coral reef, now a 70 acre barrier island, Adams Key is located 7 miles from the mainland. Facilities there include: a picnic shelter, barbecue grills, restrooms, campfire circle and an indoor classroom. Food storage boxes and tents are also available. Study habitats include: mangrove shoreline, coastal transition forest, hardwood hammock, intertidal zone and marine meadows. Activities might include: shoreline wet hikes, marine vertebrate and invertebrate study, transition forest and hammock exploration, and night walks. Transportation to and from the island is provided on National Park Service boats. Weather conditions or sudden mechanical breakdowns could force cancellation of the trip.

Program Dates: January - April, 1985, (refer to page 11 specific dates)

Workshop Dates: Basic Workshop: 8:30 a.m., December 8 - 2:30 p.m. December 9, 1984 (overnight).

TRIP REGISTRATION

All trip reservations are made by telephone. Teachers should make sure that they will either be able to attend the required workshop or that they have attended a previous workshop in the area to which they will bring their students.

The number to call for each program is listed below along with the dates that reservations open for each. Calendars showing the dates for camping trips are shown on the next two pages. (Have alternate dates in mind when you call, in case your first choice has already been filled.)

DAY VISITS

<u>Location</u>	<u>Program Dates</u>	<u>Reservations Open</u>	<u>Reservation Phones (305 AC)</u>
<u>Biscayne National Park:</u>			
Convoy Point (4-6)	Nov-Dec	Sept. 17	247-7275
	May-June	Jan 23	247-7275
Convoy Point (9-12)	October	Aug 31	247-7275
	July-Aug	May 1	247-7275
<u>Everglades National Park:</u>			
Shark Valley	Oct-Apr	Sept. 17	247-6211 x220
Royal Palm/ Long Pine Key	Oct-Apr	Sept. 17	247-6211 x220
Key Largo Ranger Station	Oct-Dec	Sept. 17	247-6211 x220
Sandfly Island	Jan-Mar	Sept. 17	247-6211 x220
Everglades Institute	Jan-Apr	Dec. 3	247-621 x218

CAMPING VISITS

<u>Location</u>	<u>Program Dates</u>	<u>Reservations Open</u>	<u>Reservation Phones (305 AC)</u>
<u>Biscayne National Park</u>			
Adams Key (4-6)	Jan-Apr	Oct. 3	247-7275
<u>Everglades National Park</u>			
Loop Road Center	Nov-Apr	Oct. 1*	247-6211 x218
Hidden Lake Center	Jan-Apr	Oct. 1*	247-6211 x218
Fort Jefferson National Monument	Dec., Mar., and May	Oct. 1	247-6211 x218

*Part-week camps open reservations Oct. 1, 1984. Entire week camps open reservations Sept. 24, 1984

CAMPING CALENDAR

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

NOVEMBER 1984

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

DECEMBER 1984

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JANUARY 1985

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

FEBRUARY 1985

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

MARCH 1985

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

APRIL 1985

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

⬡ Teacher Workshop at Loop Road

⬠ Teacher Workshop at Hidden Lake

□ Starting days for Loop Road camps

○ Starting days for Hidden Lake camps

(Note: Basic workshops last 2 days.)
(Advanced workshops are on)
(Sunday only.)

(Note: 3-day camps run M-W or W-F)
(5-day camps run Mon. - Fri.)

CAMPING CALENDAR

BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK

NOVEMBER 1984

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

DECEMBER 1984

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JANUARY 1985

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

FEBRUARY 1985

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

MARCH 1985

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

APRIL 1985

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

⬡ Teacher Workshops at Adams Key

(Note: All workshops last 2 days.)

□ Starting days for Adams Key camps

(Note: All camps last 3 days,)
(either M-W or W-F)

TEACHER WORKSHOPS

All teachers who are new to Biscayne and Everglades National Parks' day visit and camping programs are required to attend a workshop prior to bringing a class to the park. The goals of the workshops are:

1. To define the roles of each individual involved in the program: teacher, ranger, administrator, student, parent, and chaperone.
2. To familiarize teachers with the park resources and study sites.
3. To provide teachers with information and materials which they can utilize in preparing their classes and in conducting programs in the field and after the visit.

Workshop requirements:

In order to reserve a date for a trip, teachers must:

- a. have attended the workshop for that specific program and location during the 1982-83 or 1983-84 school year

OR

- b. after attending a workshop, have brought a class and actively participated in that specific program during the 1982-83 or 1983-84 school year

OR

- c. be signed up for a 1984-85 workshop for that program and location. Your trip will be cancelled if you do not attend and complete the workshop.

Optional advanced workshop

For teachers who already meet the initial workshop requirement and who want more information, Everglades National Park is offering advanced workshops for both its camping and day visit programs. The Everglades camping advanced workshops will occur simultaneous with, but separate from, the initial workshops at each Interpretive Center. The Everglades day-visit advanced workshop will be held November 2 at Royal Palm. Biscayne National Park is only offering an advanced camping workshop on January 12-13, 1985.

To register for a workshop, fill out the appropriate form on the following page completely. Detach the form and mail it to the National Park in which the workshop(s) you wish to attend is being offered. If you are planning on attending workshops in each park, please use both forms and mail each separately. Workshop space is limited, so be sure to register as soon as possible.

WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

Please complete all information and return to: Glades District Office
Box 279
Everglades National Park
Homestead, FL 33030

Name(s) _____

School _____

Address _____

Phone () _____

Grade Taught (circle) 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 Other _____

Please sign me up for the following workshop(s) - (Circle location and date):

Shark Valley

Royal Palm

Sandfly Island

Key Largo

Oct. 19, 1984

Oct. 19, 1984

Jan. 21, 1985

Sept. 22, 1984

Oct. 20, 1984

Oct. 20, 1984

Jan. 12, 1985

Jan. 26, 1984

Loop Road Camp

Hidden Lake Camp

Nov. 17-18, 1984

Jan. 5-6, 1985

Advanced Workshops

Day Visits: November 2

Nov. 18, 1984

Jan. 6, 1985

WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

Please complete all information and return to: Interpretive Section
Box 1369
Biscayne National Park
Homestead, FL 33030

Name(s) _____

School _____

Address _____

Phone () _____

Grade Taught (circle) 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 Other _____

Please sign me up for the following workshop(s) - (Circle location and date):

Convoy Point (Grades 4-6)

Convoy Point (Grades 9-12)

Adams Key (Grades 4-6)

Nov. 3, 1984

Nov. 6, 1984

Mar. 23, 1985

Sept. 15, 1984

Oct. 6, 1984

June 8, 1985

Dec. 8-9, 1984 (basic)

Jan. 12-13, 1985 (advanced)

