



# Manatee Snorkel Encounter

Friday, January 15, 2016

Creation Adventures by Science Partners



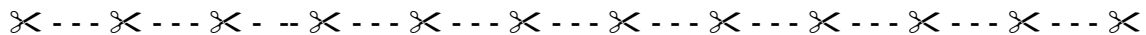
***“Let heaven and earth praise Him, the waters and everything that moves in them.” Psalm 69:34***

Join Bill and Merilee Clifton - creationists, authors, Florida Master Naturalists, and science educators - as we focus on “Florida’s Gentle Giant” - the West Indian Manatee. Our destination is Citrus County, *The Nature Coast*. In the morning, outfitted with wetsuits, masks, snorkels, and fins, we will take a pontoon boat ride in search of manatees. When we find them, we’ll join them in the crystal clear, spring-fed waters. During our manatee encounter, we’ll observe first-hand these sociable, endangered mammals. We’ll study them “up close and personal” in their natural habitat and discover what they look like, what they feel like, how they breathe, what they eat, and more! We’ll also learn what threatens the manatee’s survival and how we can help.

After our picnic lunch, we’ll head for Homosassa Springs Wildlife Park. This 166-acre park, located at the headwater of the Homosassa River, is a showcase for native Florida wildlife. We’ll visit the Children’s Education Center and also see many examples of Florida wildlife, some endangered or threatened. We’ll take the “Wildlife Walk” through natural wildlife habitats, keeping an eye out for alligators, crocodiles, snakes, deer, Florida black bear, bobcats, otter, Florida panthers, manatees (underwater viewing), and a variety of birds including endangered whooping cranes.

**We will meet at American Pro Diving Center, 821 SE US Hwy. 19, Crystal River 34429, between 7:45 and 8:00 AM. IF YOU ARE LATE, YOU WILL LITERALLY MISS THE BOAT!** Our day as a group will end at Homosassa Springs Wildlife Park around 3:30 PM. **Be sure to bring a picnic lunch.** It’s always a good idea to bring sunscreen, insect repellent, water, rain poncho, and camera. Creation resources will be available for purchase during our lunch time. If you any have questions, please contact Bill or Merilee Clifton at 407-808-4458 (cell/text) or [sciencepartners@cfl.rr.com](mailto:sciencepartners@cfl.rr.com). **Cost includes pontoon boat ride, wetsuit/mask/snorkel/fin rental, gratuities for pontoon boat crew, and entrance to Homosassa Springs Wildlife Park.**

Space is limited to the first 38 registrants (capacity for two boats)! A supervising adult must accompany (and swim with) all children. Students may not be left unattended on the boat. **Minimum age is five years.** Cost is \$65 for snorkelers 5 - 12 years old and \$70 for snorkelers 13 years and up. Make your check payable to **Science Partners** and return with registration form below to 343 Allison Ave., Longwood, FL 32750. **Deadline for reservation is December 18, 2015. Late registrations may be accepted, space permitting and with dive shop’s approval.**



## Registration Form: MANATEE SNORKEL ENCOUNTER – Friday, January 15, 2016

Last Name:		Address:		
City:		Zip:	Home Phone: (    )	
E-mail:		Cell Phone: (    )		
<b>Adult Names:</b>	<b>Children’s Names and Ages:</b>		<b>Children’s Names and Ages:</b>	
1.	1.	1.	4.	4.
2.	2.	2.	5.	5.
3.	3.	3.	6.	6.
<b>Cost:</b>				
# ___ Ages 5-12 @ \$65 = \$		# ___ Ages 13 and over @ \$70 = \$		
<b>Total Amount Enclosed: \$</b>		<b>Your Check Number:</b>		

# Manatee Snorkel Encounter

**Please read entirely and contact us if you have any questions!**

**WHO:** MSE Participants.

**WHERE:** Meet at American Pro Diving Center, 821 SE US 19, Crystal River **between 7:45 and 8:00 AM**. It is critical that you be on time! **If you are late, you will literally miss the boat!** Manatees are early risers! Check [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com) or [www.googlemaps.com](http://www.googlemaps.com) for directions and driving time estimate from your home. Don't forget change or E-pass if you use toll roads.

**WHAT TO WEAR:** Please **WEAR YOUR BATHING SUIT** under your clothes to the dive shop. This will save us a lot of time as we "gear up" (put on wetsuits and get masks, snorkels, and fins).

**WHAT TO BRING:** *(Please read the checklist below carefully. Everything has a specific purpose.)*

Per Family or Car:	Per Person – <b><i>Bring the following items in a bag:</i></b>
Directions.	Picnic Lunch.
Full tank of gas.	After snorkeling and taking wetsuit off on the boat, a sweat suit to wear over your wet bathing suit. Shoes for boat. The ride back can be chilly!
E-pass / change.	
Sunscreen.	Dry clothes and shoes to change into after boat returns to land (can be what you wear over bathing suit to dive shop), towel, undergarments.
Insect repellent.	
Water.	Small plastic bag(s) for wet clothes, bathing suit, and towel.
Snacks.	Pencil to work on student activity booklet during the day.
	<b>Optional:</b> Soap/shampoo, hat, rain poncho, camera (consider disposable underwater camera).

**SCHEDULE:** ***Be at the dive shop in Crystal River between 7:45 and 8:00 AM.*** (We have hotel information if you'd like to go over the day before.) Dive shop personnel will meet us and direct us as we gear up. We are required to view a short video, *Manatee Manners*, on appropriate behavior in the water with the manatees. Then we'll drive to Hunter's Spring Park and leave our cars. Driving directions will be provided. The pontoon boats will pick us there, and we'll head out in search of manatees. We'll snorkel with the manatees and then return to the park around 11:00 AM. At the park, there are **OUTSIDE** cold showers and also bathrooms where we can change. You may bring soap or shampoo to shower off before changing if you'd like. According to the education coordinator, the water we're snorkeling in is fresh water (not salty or brackish). So, you can just dry off and get dressed. We'll change, eat lunch, and have a short lesson on manatees before leaving for Homosassa Springs Wildlife Park around 12:30 PM. We'll enter HSWP about 1:00 PM where we'll see a floating underwater manatee observatory as well as many native Florida animals, birds, and plants in their natural settings. We'll visit the Children's Education Center for "hands-on" experiences. Our day as a group will end at HSWP around 3:00 PM. You are welcome to stay in the park until it closes at 5:30 PM.

**WHY:** *"Ask the beasts and let them teach you; and the birds of the heavens, and let them tell you. Or speak to the earth, and let it teach you; and let the fish of the sea declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this, in whose hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind."* Job 12:7-10

**FYI:** During our lunch break, we will have Creation Resources (books, booklets, DVDs, etc.) available for purchase. There are also gift shops at the dive shop and the wildlife park.

Blessings,  
**Bill & Merilee Clifton**  
**SCIENCE PARTNERS**