



# SCIENCE MATTERS

## Science Partners Newsletter

### November 2017 Issue:

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### Upcoming Science Opportunities

#### Saturday & Sunday, October 28 and 29: Fossil Fair - Central FL Fairgrounds, Orlando



Mark your calendar for Florida Fossil Hunters' 26<sup>th</sup> annual **Fossil, Mineral, and Gem Show** at Central Florida Fairgrounds, 4603 W. Colonial Drive, Orlando 32808 on Saturday, October 28, from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday, October 29, from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Admission is \$4.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children.

Besides fossils, minerals, and gems, there are activities including an hourly silent auction and a pit where kids can dig for fossils for \$1.00. For more info, call 407-699-9274 or click

here: [http://www.floridafossilhunters.com/Fossil\\_Fair.htm](http://www.floridafossilhunters.com/Fossil_Fair.htm).

### Science Partners Classes: November and December Reminders

1. **November tuition for weekly science students** is due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month and overdue with a \$5 per student late fee on the 10<sup>th</sup>.
2. **Monthly tuition for MSSW students** is due on the class day and overdue with a \$5 per student late fee a week after class.
3. **Thanksgiving Break** for weekly students is Tuesday, November 21.
4. **Christmas Break** for weekly students is December 19, 26, and January 2.
5. **Weekly Students' Quarter 1 quizzes** have been returned to students. Grade sheets have will be sent home via email next week.



### Central Florida Habitats – Friday, November 3



#### **This trip is a "go!" We only have a few spaces left if you're interested.**

Join us as we explore Central Florida Habitats, observing plants and animals that were specifically designed to live in them. Our day begins at **Blue Spring State Park** (Orange City), home to several habitats including hammock, marsh, swamp, flatwoods, and sand pine scrub. We will **cruse the St. Johns River aboard a hands-on, floating science laboratory!** We'll test the river water for temperature, salinity, and turbidity. We'll dip, collect, and identify marine specimens. And, we'll enjoy our captain's narrated introduction to the wildlife and vegetation of this fragile ecosystem. We'll keep a look out for manatees, alligators, otters, snakes, deer, turtles, birds, and more. Students will have the opportunity to **earn a Jr. Birding Certificate** in the "Wings over Florida" program of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. After our cruise, we'll **hike** the boardwalk through the lush hammock along Blue Spring Run as we **look for endangered manatees** near the head of the springs. Back at the picnic pavilion, we'll **see a manatee skull and rib**, and Mr. Clifton will teach us about manatees from a creationist perspective. Then, we're off to **Lyonia Preserve** in Deltona where we will take a short hike into a scrub habitat looking for one of Florida's rarest and most threatened birds, the **Florida scrub-jay**. We'll learn about plants and animals created for the scrub habitat and contrast them with plants and animals of other habitats. We'll also visit **Lyonia Environmental Center** and learn much from its educational displays and exhibits.

**For an information / registration form, click here:**

[http://www.sciencepartners.net/uploads/9/8/8/0/9880494/11-03-17\\_central\\_fl\\_habitats.pdf](http://www.sciencepartners.net/uploads/9/8/8/0/9880494/11-03-17_central_fl_habitats.pdf).

## St. Augustine – FL History Tour – Saturday, December 2

**It's time to start planning on this trip!**  
**Deadline for minimum number is November 4.**  
**For an information/registration form, click here:**

<http://www.sciencepartners.net/st-augustine---florida-history-tour.html>.



Join Bill and Merilee Clifton as we **tour St. Augustine, our nation's oldest city**. Our day begins at the **Old Florida Museum**. We will be divided into three groups: Pioneers, Indians, and Spanish. Students will enjoy an "entertaining and educational experience designed to expose them to daily living skills of the Timucuan Indians, the Spanish Fort Mose inhabitants, and Florida pioneer children." Our next stop is the **Fountain of Youth**, a National Archaeological Park, where we'll eat our picnic lunches. The park is located at the site of the ancient Timucuan Indian town of Seloy. This is where the history of North America began when Ponce de Leon came ashore and claimed ALL of North America for Spain. At that time, "La Florida" was the entire North American continent, not just our state! Our group will tour the Springhouse where we can sample water from the spring that Ponce de Leon thought was the Fountain of Youth. We'll also see the Explorer's Discovery Globe Show, Navigator's Planetarium, and other exhibits. Then, we'll head to St. Augustine's historical district where we'll meet at the Visitor Center and walk across to **Castillo de San Marcos**. Our Castillo de San Marcos guide will lead us as we explore 300 years of Florida history in this unique national monument also known as "the fort." Afterwards, we will explore **historic St. George Street** where we will step back in time on this narrow, paved brick street to see the Huguenot Cemetery, the City Gate, the Oldest Wooden Schoolhouse in the USA, and more.



**SPECIAL NOTE:** Consider staying overnight (on your own) and making this a family holiday weekend! The award-winning **Nights of Lights** festival dazzles the city as some three million twinkling white lights adorn every corner of the historic district from November 18, 2017, to January 31, 2018. Businesses downtown stay open later so you can dine and shop amongst the lit buildings. Trains and trolleys offer special seasonal tours that take you through the best areas of **Nights of Lights**, and there are also a variety of specialty tours - everything from walking tours and horse-and-carriage tours to tours to see the lights from the water and from the air. For a complete list of **Nights of Lights** tours and other events happening in St. Augustine, click on this link: <https://www.visitstaugustine.com/topics/nights-lights>.

## Schedule a *Creation Adventure* for Your Homeschool Group or Christian School

1. **Go to Science Partners' website, [www.sciencepartners.net](http://www.sciencepartners.net).**
2. **Click on the "Creation Field Trips" and "Creation Workshops" tabs** to review the field trips and workshops that we offer.
3. **Go to the "Calendar" tab** to see what dates are available.
4. **Contact us when you have decided on an event and a date**, so we can begin our scheduling process and make reservations with our vendors.
5. **We will contact you for final approval** once everything is confirmed. Then, your event will be added to our website calendar. For homeschool groups, an information/registration form will be linked to your event date. For Christian schools, a form is not needed for each participant.
6. **Questions?** Contact Merilee Clifton at [sciencepartners@cfl.rr.com](mailto:sciencepartners@cfl.rr.com) or 407-808-4458 (cell / text).



**See the next page for a list of upcoming Creation Adventures!**

## List of Upcoming 2017-18 Creation Adventures



The following **Creation Adventures** are open to all homeschool families. They have been scheduled through The Classical School at The First Academy and/or Science Partners and are open to everyone!

Our goal is to provide participants with a unique and fascinating creationist perspective of God's great design in nature and to teach them how to see God's handiwork in all of creation!

We hope you can join us! For information/registration forms, go to our web calendar: <http://www.sciencepartners.net/calendar.html>, and click on the date that interests you!

- **November 3 (Friday): Central Florida Habitats**, Blue Spring State Park & Lyonia Preserve.
- **December 2 (Saturday): St. Augustine – FL History Tour**, Old Florida Museum, Fountain of Youth, Castillo de San Marcos, Historic St. George Street. ***Consider making it a family weekend and stay overnight on your own for St. Augustine's award-winning "Nights of Lights" festival!***
- **January 26 (Friday): Manatee Snorkel Encounter**, Crystal River and Homosassa Springs Wildlife Park.
- **January 31 (Wednesday): For the Birds**, Orlando Wetlands Park.
- **February 16 (Friday): Day of the Dinosaurs**, Dinosaur World and Mulberry Phosphate Museum.
- **March 16 (Friday): Florida's Water Systems**, Canaveral National Seashore, Merritt Island NWR, Indian River Lagoon, St. Johns River.
- **April 16 (Monday): The Heavens Declare!**, Astronomy workshop – STARLAB portable planetarium.