

Welcome to the St. Lucie Co
Aquarium!!!



Fun at the Touch Tank



- Students learned about marine invertebrates.
- Students were able to handle sea cucumbers, sea stars, sea urchins and conchs
- Students learned about the medicinal advances made by horseshoe crabs, (their blood has antimicrobial properties and is used to test for vaccine contamination)

Students had a tour of Aquarium!



- Students and staff had a personalized tour of aquarium with Dr. McGowan (who is a volunteer there also!)
- Students learned about the Indian River Lagoon ecosystem, the native plants and animals.
- Students also learned about invasive species such as lionfish that are creating ecological unbalance on local coral reefs.
- Students microscopically viewed plankton that originated from the lagoon

Seining presentation



- Students learned that staff seining in the lagoon to locate animals for displays
- The staff have license to do this
- The animals are returned after 28 days.
- Seining is important to observe the variety and numbers of animals in lagoon ecosystem.
- Seining shows students how science can be an active task also.

Time for the glam photo!



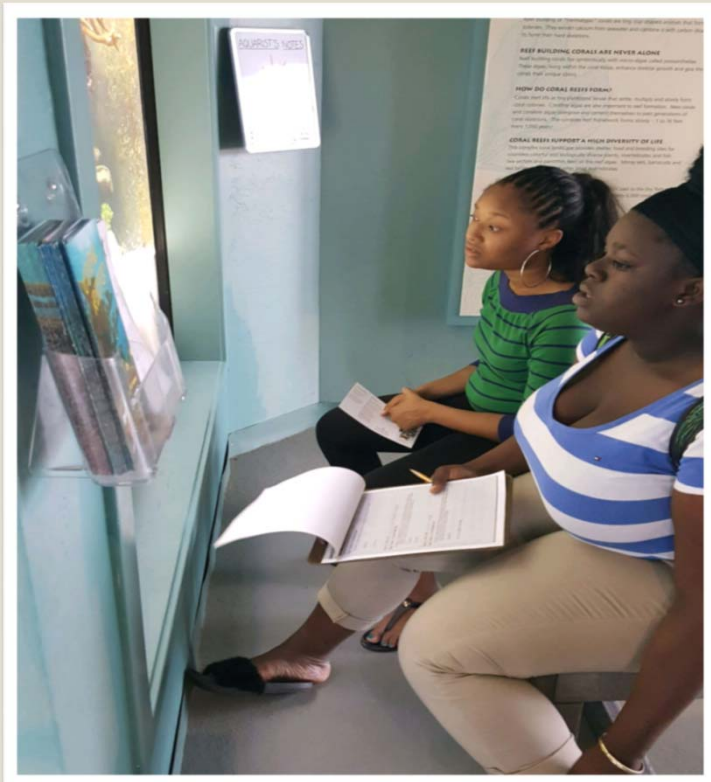
Behind the scenes tour with Smithsonian Scientist!



- How the aquarium runs
- How animals are fed and what they eat
- Why maintaining the aquarium is a very specific science, pH balances, water quality, habitat maintenance.



ESI-Ecosystem Science Investigation



- Find those clues!!!
- Filled out ecosystem directive sheet.
- Observations made...

- Mysteries solved!!!!