Summer '26 Marine Biology Field Experience

Destination: Jupiter, Florida

SHARK DOCS

Dates:
Course 1: July 20-25 (< 18 y.o.)
Course 2: Aug 1-6 (18 and up)

INTERESTED IN MARINE BIOLOGY?

Want to learn more about sharks, reef fish, and sea turtles?

Immerse yourself in Florida's wild marine ecosystems and gain skills for a career in marine biology. Join Dr. Chris Malinowski and other experts for this unique hands-on summer field experience where you'll work with Florida's most iconic marine species.

Course Research Skills:

- Shark survey techniques, including drumline deployment and non-invasive video surveys, shark handling & tagging, and responsible shark snorkeling
- Reef fish survey and sea turtle nesting survey techniques with local experts
- Biological sample and field data collection

Featured Expert

Dr. Chris Malinowski

- Affiliate faculty, FAU & FIU
- Broad expertise in marine biology
- Star of Netflix's 'All the Sharks'
- National Geographic & Discovery Channel featured research

Who should participate?

High school students, undergraduates & early career professionals

$2850 per student

SPACE IS LIMITED

To reserve your spot, visit
www.sharkdocs.org
thesharkdocs@gmail.com

Marine Biology Field Experience

Led by Dr. Chris Malinowski of Shark Docs
Destination: Jupiter, Florida
Details and Registration: https://www.sharkdocs.org/fieldcourses
Contact Email: thesharkdocs@gmail.com

2026 Course Dates

- Course 1: **July 20-25** (High school students under 18 years of age)
- Course 2: **August 1-6** (Participants 18 years of age and older)

*Spots are first-come, first-served

Note: To ensure age-appropriate programming and proper supervision, Course 1 is designed for high school students under 18, and Course 2 is designed for adults 18+. Staff will be present for all groups throughout both courses.

Cost: $2,850

- **Deposit:** $1,425 (due upon enrollment to secure your spot)
- **Final Payment:** $1,425 (due April 1, 2026)
- *All payments are non-refundable*

Eligibility

High school students, college students, and early career professionals

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About the Course

Spend five days working alongside Dr. Chris Malinowski and his team, exploring Florida's iconic coastal habitats and learning hands-on marine research techniques. This intensive field experience focuses on sharks, reef fish, and sea turtles, designed for anyone pursuing a career in marine biology or conservation. This experience is intentionally broad to provide insights into multiple exciting paths in this field.

Fieldwork will take place in various weather conditions, including heat and rain. Safety is our top priority, and adjustments will be made if conditions are unsafe.

Note: We reserve the right to cancel the course or remove individual students due to safety concerns or behavioral issues.

What's Included:

- **Accommodations:** 4-night accommodation in Airbnb-style housing
- **Meals:** All meals
- **Course Materials:** Shark Docs t-shirt
- **Transportation:** All transport between housing location and field sites
- **Mentorship**

Course Objectives & Experiences:

- **Field Experience:** Hands-on research in Florida's reefs, mangroves, and seagrass habitats
- **Research Vessel Experience**
- **Expert Instruction:** Direct mentorship from Dr. Chris Malinowski and his research team
- **Data Collection:** Safe shark capture, handling, tagging, & sample collection
- **Survey Methods:** Training in roving diver surveys, transect surveys, and BRUV (Baited Remote Underwater Videos) deployment and analysis
- **Sea Turtle Research:** Evening sea turtle nesting observation and research
- **Classroom Sessions:** Learning and discussion sessions covering marine biology concepts and conservation

What's NOT Included

- Personal snorkel gear (mask, fins, snorkel) –bring or purchase
- Airfare and airport transportation to/from Jupiter (Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood or Palm Beach International airports are the closest options)

General Itinerary

Day 1: Sea Turtle Biology & Conservation. After arrival and orientation, observe sea turtle nesting on beaches, learn about ongoing research, and explore current conservation challenges.

Day 2: Coral Reef Fish Ecology. Conduct snorkel surveys on vibrant coral reefs while learning fish monitoring techniques.

Day 3: Shark & Ray Research. Research expedition to capture, tag, and collect data on sharks and rays.

Day 4: Shark Research & Snorkel. Research expedition to capture, tag, and collect data on sharks, then join professional guides to snorkel safely with sharks offshore.

Day 5: Breakfast & Departure.

Note: subject to change

How to Apply

Complete the course registration form and indicate your preferred date. **Spots are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis,** and courses fill quickly. Your spot is secured only upon receipt of your $1,425 deposit, so register and submit payment as soon as possible.

Note: payment instructions will be sent via email following registration.

Additional details about what to bring and course expectations will be provided in an information package after enrollment.

Student Testimonials

"The shark research program delivered a week's worth of real-life, hands-on experience as a marine biologist. The insights, fieldwork, and relationships gained from this program serve anyone curious about or working toward a career in marine science. Out of all my life experiences, this has been one of the best (and most fun) ones yet."
— Bailey B.

"While having always dreamed to work as a marine biologist and with sharks, this course was something that made my love for the field and sharks a dream come true! It gave me the push I needed to further my education so that I can achieve my lifelong goal! The team is one I will always remember. They treat you like family and by the end of the course, you've practically become one."
— Darby A.

"As someone who is figuring out what I want to do after undergrad, this trip was an amazing experience for me and I learned a lot. It definitely reinforced my desire to work in the field and with the animals themselves. The in lab blood work was also super helpful to see what kind of work is done after the data collecting, and to practice some basic lab techniques. The instructors were so incredibly helpful and involved, even a rainy day was filled with activities like building equipment. A highlight for me was definitely catching two sharks on a hand-line the first day when we thought we wouldn't catch any. Thanks for an amazing trip I won't forget!"
— Braeden L.

"This field course was one of the best experiences I could have had. It really helped me solidify my love for field work and gain more vital experience I needed to continue my career in shark science. It was great to get authentic hands-on experience with sharks as well as in a laboratory setting. I had nothing but amazing interactions with the staff and it's refreshing to see and have a chance to work with a team that seems to not only care a lot about the organisms they work with but also have the drive to make real change. I will never forget the knowledge and memories I left with."
— Ryan H.