Coastal Science Camps

With more than 80 miles of coastal beaches, marshes, islands and estuaries, Mississippi houses one of the premier marine research facilities in the nation, The University of South Mississippi’s Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL). Since 1989, the Marine Education Center (MEC) at GCRL has offered students from around the globe an opportunity to work with research scientists in state-of-the-art university facilities.

Possibilities as Endless as the Water and Sky
Camp participants enjoy kayaking, birding, fishing and beachcombing while learning about beach and barrier island ecology and marine biology. With dormitories and a full-service cafeteria, the MEC offers a day camp or an overnight experience that caters to your educational goals.

Custom designed one-to-five day camp.
We will design a rich learning experience for any group, from fourth grade to adult, who want a hands-on experience on the beach, in a boat, in the lab or all three. Coastal Science Camps are for any organized group of 15-100 participants. Field and classroom experiences are tailored to the educational goals of the group.

- Ecology: beach and barrier island systems, salt marsh communities, estuarine ecosystems and pine savannah habitat
- Shark and other fish identification, classification and dissection
- Water quality sampling and testing
- Marine artifacts and museum collections
- Research on northern Gulf of Mexico pelagic (offshore) species, including sharks, dolphins and others
- Coastal ornithology
- Marine aquaculture
- Trawling for local species of vertebrates and invertebrates
- Kayaking
- Fishing and cast net throwing

Visit our website: gcrl.usm.edu. Contact us at 228.818.8833 / marine.education@usm.edu.