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2024-25 UWCK Marine Science Education Grants Now Available

Expanding Educational Opportunities to Create the Next Generation of Reef Stewards

Florida Keys — United Way of Collier and the Keys (UWCK) is excited to announce that the application process for the annual UWCK Marine Science Education Grant is now open. This grant focuses on expanding marine science and conservation opportunities for students in the Florida Keys.

Now in its fourth year, UWCK's five-year commitment aims to provide \$180,000 to schools and educational facilities throughout the Keys. In the 2023-2024 cycle, a total of \$41,729 was awarded to 17 recipients.



"Our kayak cleanup on the Fury was incredible! We cannot thank UWCK enough for such a wonderful experience," said Amy Harper, a fifth-grade teacher at Poinciana Elementary School. Through the Marine Science Education Grant, 65 students participated in the kayak cleanup. "As they witnessed the unbelievable amount of trash, boat rope, fishing line, etc., it caused them to contemplate the long-term results of careless fishing," Harper added.

The annual Marine Science Education Grant program is part of UWCK's commitment to creating the next generation of reef stewards, in partnership with the United Arab Emirates. Grants of up to \$2,500 are available per application for Monroe County School District schools and Monroe County-based marine science nonprofit education centers or organizations. Additionally, up to \$500 per application is available for Monroe County licensed childcare facilities and preschools.

Eligible uses for the grant may include transportation, substitute teachers, admission to facilities, curriculum and related materials, consumable supplies, trainings and conferences, equipment, food, student supplies, and other directly related program-specific expenses incurred to make this enhanced marine science programming possible.

Applications are due by September 30th, 2024.

For more information on the grant application, visit <https://uwcollierkeys.org/mseg/>.

Pictured: Poinciana Elementary School 5th grade students participating in a kayak cleanup.

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About United Way of Collier and the Keys:

United Way of Collier and the Keys (UWCK) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the education, health, and economic mobility of our neighbors in Collier and Monroe Counties. Through strategic partnerships and collaborative efforts, UWCK addresses critical social issues and works towards driving positive, sustainable change to build stronger, healthier, and more resilient communities.

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