## What will you and your students do?

Learn about and explore the wonders of the sea while swimming and snorkeling the unique setting of the Belize Barrier Reef. This field program will provide direct experience with principles of ecology and marine biology.

The day is structured for a balanced experience. Lectures, labs, snorkeling, data recording, and research is matched with time for collaboration as well as down time for your intended summer break.

## What will you and your students learn?

The program focuses on marine life in a coral reef environment. You will learn to:

- Identify local fish, invertebrates, and plants.
- Observe biological interactions, such as competition, predation, and symbiosis, among members of these communities.
- Explain how abiotic factors regulate populations and communities, and affect ecosystem dynamics.
- Perform field techniques, including sampling procedures, and the estimation of population density and community diversity.
- Compare methods used to study coral reef community ecology.
- Perform monitoring and census techniques in several reef community types.
- Synthesize and incorporate information from articles in peer reviewed journals into your journal and presentations.

## Besides personal gear, what will your students need for the program?

- Field notebook/journal
- Snorkeling gear

## What is provided with the program?

- All texts, guides, manuals and documentation
- Laboratory facilities
- Boat and snorkeling access to mangrove swamps, sea grass meadows and coral reefs

**What can you expect?**

- Authentic experiential learning experiences in the field
- Qualified instructors with diverse backgrounds and experience in the topics as well extensive experience on the Belize Coral Reefs
- A balance between involved classroom lectures, intensive labs and extensive time in the water *(It is highly recommended for participants to be strong swimmers.)*

- Introductions to the coral reef, mangrove and seagrass ecosystems of the Caribbean Sea
- Practical experience in marine ecology research
- Opportunities for oral reports, personal and team projects
- Opportunity to conduct a brief research project and presentation
- Opportunity to collect data for the Coral Watch Reef Monitoring Project

**Where will you and the students stay?**

Participants will be lodged on site in dormitory facilities with private bathrooms and showers.

**What does the cost of the Coral Reef Ecology Program include?**

- All instruction
- All texts, guides, manuals and documentation
- Lodging and meals on site
- Program sponsored excursions
- Ground and boat transportation in Belize
-

**What is not included in the cost of the Coral Reef Ecology Program?**

- Passport
- Airfare from the states
- Meals not on site
- South Water Caye Marine Reserve Park Fee ($10)



**International Zoological Expeditions will provide the support you need to build understanding, ability, and to foster responsibility for your own personal development goals.**

The Belize Coral Reef Ecology Program for Students is designed with a flexibility that makes it perfect for educators and students of any grade level. It can easily be catered to assist in meeting your educational goals, objectives and standards for your students.

We are there to provide assistance in documentation needed for funding, grants, or continuing education units.

**An optional experience of a three night Blue Creek Village and Rain Forest Lodge trip extension in Southern Belize is available for $479.*