



*Tour:*

## TROPICAL STEM

*Destination:*

Orlando & Anna Maria Island, Florida

*Specialization:*

Marine Biology, Ecology, & Space Sciences

*Itinerary:*

7-days / 6-nights

TROPICAL STEM				
ORLANDO & ANNA MARIA ISLAND				
	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	
1	Travel to Orlando, Florida; transfer to Hotel and check-in	Welcome, Safety & Orientation Meeting	Welcome Dinner	Florida Mini-Golf Challenge
2	Universal Studio's Theme Parks with Park Hopper + Science-Behind-the-Scenes Master Class		Dinner & Free Time / Pool Night	
3	NASA's Kennedy Space Center & Visitor's Center		WonderWorks & Comedy Pizza Show	
4	Wild Florida Airboat Tour, Everglades Master Class & Lunch	Transfer to Florida's Gulf Coast	Hotel Check-in	Dinner + Evening Beach Walk
5	Clearwater Marine - Biology Master Class Series		Local Dinner	AMI Island Exploration
6	Sea Kayak Marine Ecology Adventure	Beach Time & Scavenger Hunt	Farewell Dinner at the Beach	
7	Depart Florida for Home			



As with all sample itineraries, please be advised that this is an 'example' of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.



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## Day 1

Dinner on arrival, contingent upon arrival time

Travel to Florida arriving at in the late afternoon or early evening. After boarding your coach you will be transferred to your hotel on International Drive. After check-in, we'll have our Welcome, Safety & Orientation meeting and get settled in. This evening we'll have dinner locally and then some fun with a Mini-Golf Challenge!

**Sample Hotel: Springhill Suites, International Drive** - Innovatively designed and ideally located for our groups, this hotel is a great place to relax, refuel and enjoy everything the area has to offer. Located minutes from great dining and attractions, groups will make themselves at home in spacious suites that include two queen beds, a pull-out sofa sleeper, mini-refrigerator, microwave, coffeemaker, complimentary high-speed Internet and more. Hotel amenities include an on-site fitness center, an outdoor heated pool, a business center, and a guest market. Breakfast is served at the hotel each morning.



**Pirates Cove Mini-Golf Challenge** - Plunge into the legendary world of 18th century buccaneers! Putt your way through mountain caves, across a full-scale pirate ship, over footbridges and under cascading waterfalls--all amid a fun-filled atmosphere of meticulously kept landscaping and enchanting pirate lore.

## Day 2

*Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own*

Good morning Orlando! After breakfast, we'll transfer to Universal Studios Theme Parks. We'll have Park Hopper passes to explore both amazing parks – Universal Studios Theme Park and Universal's Islands of Adventure, and ride the Hogwarts Express to get back and forth! Wear your walking shoes!



**Universal Studios Theme Park** - Fun So Hard. It's just like watching your favorite TV shows and movies IRL, except with the ultimate ride-y things like twists, turns and drops. Face villains more menacing than your kids



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pre-churros. Save the earth daily or even hourly. Oh and dragons, have we got dragons! And one of them even breathes real fire so that's cool (err hot). This is way beyond the movies.

**Islands of Adventure Theme Park** - Free Yourself to be Yourself. This is where it goes down. And up. And down again. To those who say "Yay adventure" we're here for you. Superheroes. Magical creatures. A school of witchcraft and wizardry. Even dinosaurs (turns out, not so extinct). Take a ride, multiple rides. Some will drench you. Some will just mess up your hair. Some will make your head spin (figuratively speaking). All of them will say: Every island is a new reality.

While here, we'll participate in one of two specialized Master Tours:

**Universal Studios' Theme Parks + 'Behind-the-Adventure'** - A science and technology Tour. Students will have the opportunity to discover the science involved in creating the world's most technologically advanced theme park. Behind-the-Adventure showcases the physics, technology, horticulture and general sciences that went into designing and building this state-of-the-art theme park. The sciences come to life as your Universal guide answers such questions as:

- How is 'The Incredible Hulk' coaster launched?
- How are the special effects in 'Poseidon's Fury' accomplished?
- How is the park foliage chosen?
- What technologies are utilized to make 'The Amazing Adventures of Spider-Man' so amazing?
- How is physics used to create roller coasters?

**OR Universal Studios' Special FX** – a special effects program to discover the secrets of making movie magic at Universal Studios. Through this interactive tour of Universal Studios, students will learn, hands-on, about the arts and sciences used to create some of the most spectacular special effects in motion picture history and what it took to recreate those effects in some of Universal Studios' most popular attractions. Tour highlights include:

- Visit 'Revenge of the Mummy' to learn the secrets of set design and construction
- Go behind the scenes at 'Men in Black: Alien Attack' to learn how such effects as animatronics, lasers, strobe lights and fog effects are utilized to set the atmosphere for this attraction
- Experience the 'Universal Horror Make-Up Show' for an up-close look at how make-up effects are created
- Stroll through soundstages and production facilities; walk through the street of New York, San Francisco and Hollywood to learn the importance of atmosphere through set design
- Visit 'Twister... Ride It Out' and learn what it takes to recreate an F-5 tornado

The 3-hour Master Class begins 1-hour before the theme park opens and allows for access to areas of the park unavailable to the general public. After our 3-hour guided lesson, the day is ours to have fun in two of the most incredible theme parks in America – Universal Studios and Universal's Islands of Adventure.

Upon our return to the hotel, we'll have dinner and then free time. It might be a perfect night for a swim or a walk down International Drive!



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### Day 3

*Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own*

Rise and shine for a spectacular space day! Today we're heading to Cape Canaveral on Florida's eastern coast, home to NASA's Kennedy Space Center.

**NASA's Kennedy Space Center** - John Glenn, Neil Armstrong, Sally Ride and Jim Lovell are just a few names of the brave men and women that have launched into space from Kennedy Space Center, and now it's your turn to become a part of the space program. Your full day of exploration includes real space hardware, authentic attractions, inspiring exhibits and hands-on experiences. The incredible accomplishments of the Apollo moon program return to life in the amazing Apollo/Saturn V Center. In back-to-back IMAX® theatres, you'll feel the thrill of space exploration on five-story screens as you "float" right alongside NASA Astronauts. On guided tours into exclusive areas, you'll get a behind-the-scenes look at Kennedy Space Center's working space flight facilities. Strap in and experience interactive space flight simulators at the Astronaut Hall of Fame. Touch a real piece of Mars, see gigantic rockets, board the Space Shuttle Explorer and much more.



Your exploration of Kennedy Space Center starts with one of their world-renowned tours, where you depart the Visitor Complex to see awesome NASA facilities, including the massive launch pads, gigantic Vehicle Assembly Building, and exploring the awe-inspiring Apollo/Saturn V Center. There is much to do at the Visitor Complex when you return, from live action theatrical shows like Mad Mission to Mars, to the inspiring Astronaut Encounter briefing with an actual NASA Astronaut - one of the few people on Earth who have been to space. View ten-story high rockets from all eras of space exploration in the Rocket Garden, walk through a full-size Space Shuttle mock-up, see IMAX space films on gigantic five-story screens, and see an actual Gemini program capsule on display in Early Space Exploration.

**IMPORTANT TRANSPORTATION NOTE** – Please be aware that this day includes 10-hours of motorcoach time. As NASA is approximately a 1.5-hour drive from your hotel, the time reserved includes 3 hours of travel time plus 7-hours at NASA. If your school desires more time, we will be happy to book this for you but please be aware that motorcoach time is calculated hourly and you will be responsible for any additional fees incurred.

After our full day at Kennedy Space Center, we'll enjoy a pizza dinner with a comedy show and then have fun at WonderWorks!

**WonderWorks & The Outta Control Magic Comedy Dinner Show** – Wonderworks is an amusement park for the mind, combining education and entertainment in over 100 hands-on exhibits for students of all ages. Students will feel the 65-mph hurricane force winds, be shaken by a 5.3 earthquake, play virtual sports, land the space shuttle, fly a fighter jet, lay on a bed of nails, design and ride their own roller coaster and even compete in a Laser Tag game in the world's largest Laser Tag Arena & Arcade.



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Guests will also experience the “Outta Control Comedy/Magic Dinner Show” combining high-energy comedy improvisation with fun “magic” to thoroughly entertain audiences of all ages. During the show, schools will enjoy unlimited hand-tossed pizza, popcorn and soft drinks.

#### Day 4

*Breakfast, lunch & dinner included*

Good morning Florida! Today, we’ll check out of our hotel and store our luggage. We’ll be visiting the northern Florida Everglades this morning to learn about the creatures that populate this fantastic area! Then, it’s off to the beach!

**Wild Florida** - Located 45-minutes outside of Orlando, a visit into the northern Florida Everglades will be a grand adventure as you experience a part of Florida that hasn’t changed much from when early pioneers arrived in covered wagons in the 1800s. Exploring the headwaters of the Everglades and learning about native and exotic animals, students will be able to see wild animals in their native habitat during an airboat tour through the Everglades Headwaters aboard a U.S. Coast Guard certified airboat. They’ll see wildlife native to Florida such as alligators, eagles, roseate spoonbills, wild hogs and turkeys, just to name a few. Your captain can help students spot the wildlife found around Lake Cypress, give insight about each species with unique facts. In the Gator Park, they’ll be able to see ring-tailed lemurs, two-toed sloths, African crested porcupines, and other exotic animals commonly found around the world. Wild Florida is a feast for the eyes and the soul.



Afterwards, we’re off to beautiful Anna Maria Island!



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Groups staying on Anna Maria Island will generally lodge at the **Silver Surf Gulf Beach Resort**. The Silver Surf features 50 “laid back” Florida-style units. Each unit includes one queen or king bed with a pull-out queen sofa sleeper to sleep up to 4 pupils. Units are equipped with mini-kitchens and have a microwave a small refrigerator and coffee pot. The hotel is located directly across the street from a beautiful beach on Anna Maria Island where scooter, bicycles, wave runners and boat rentals are available. The hotel has a heated pool and offers complimentary use of beach chairs and umbrellas. For life-guarded beaches, students may hop on the free public trolley to access the island’s great recreational areas. Meals are taken at a local restaurant, on the beach, within easy walking distance.



After checking in, we’ll have an early dinner and then walk the beach for fantastic finds!

## Day 5

*Breakfast, lunch & dinner included*

Rise and shine Anna Maria Island! Are you ready to learn about dolphins and sea life? Get ready early because we’re off to the famous Clearwater Marine Aquarium, home to “Winter” from a Dolphin’s Tale!

**Clearwater Marine Aquarium + Master Classes Series with Boat Tour & Packed Lunch** - Come explore this unique hospital dedicated to rescue, rehabilitation and release of marine animals. See their mission in action as you discover the rehab and surgical areas and get up-close inspiration from the stories of the resident animals, including **Winter the dolphin**, who swims with a prosthetic tail. Feed the sting rays, sharks and pelicans, or cruise on an interactive boat safari. Hop aboard a complimentary boat or trolley shuttle to nearby **Winter’s Dolphin Tale Adventure**, where you’ll discover a museum of rebuilt sets and props from the Dolphin Tale movies and walk through the Hurricane Experience exhibit. All this and much more await you for a day of fun and a lifetime of inspiration. Your day will include possibilities such as a Behind-the-Scenes and Hospital Tour, a Stranding Master Class, a boxed lunch, a lab project, a Dolphin Adventure Boat Tour plus time to view the aquarium and see the stages of the Dolphin Tale. Inclusions are subject to change and dependent upon your dates of travel.



This evening, we’ll have dinner locally and then take the Island Trolley to explore the land. Maybe a walk on one of three fishing piers to see what they’re catching!



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## Day 6

*Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own*

Good morning Florida! It's time to get wet!

**Sea Kayak Ecology Tour** - Experience one of the most abundant ecosystems on the planet. Only coral reefs and tropical rainforests boast a higher density and diversity of life than here in the mangrove estuary of Sarasota and Tampa Bay. After a full safety briefing, climb in and paddle the Florida waterways in one or two-person kayaks. Guided by an ecologist, we'll explore the shallow waters finding amazing sea creatures to stunning mangroves. In addition to the birds, fish, manatees, and dolphins we hope to find, we will also look for enormous live conchs, colorful sea sponges, delicate sea stars, even wild critters like sea cucumbers and sea hares! You'll be amazed at just how much is out there.



This afternoon, we'll have a relaxing afternoon at the beach, complete with a **Beach Scavenger Hunt!** Our final dinner will be served at the beach.

## Day 7

*Breakfast included*

After our fabulous week, we'll start to head home, taking memories with us that will last forever!

Note: If international groups want to stop for an **Outlet Shopping** excursion while en route to the airport, this is available for an extra fee (required for transportation wait time). Simply let us know if you wish to add this. The outlet mall will be [Ellenton Premium Outlets](#), located approximately a 30-minute drive inland.





# TROPICAL STEM

**Minimum Booking Numbers:**

20 students

**What's Included:**

Round-trip flights OR motorcoach transfers  
6-nights' hotel: 3 nights Orlando + 3 nights Anna Maria Island  
Breakfasts and dinners daily  
2 Lunches (Wild Florida & Clearwater Marine)  
Transportation for programmed activities & airport transfers  
Universal Studios Theme Park + Islands of Adventure Theme Park with Hopper Pass  
Universal's Science-Behind-the-Scenes Master Class  
Mini-Golf Challenge  
NASA's Kennedy Space Center & Visitor's Center  
WonderWorks + Comedy Pizza Dinner Show  
Wild Florida Airboat Ride & Alligator Master Class, Tour & Lunch  
Anna Maris Island Beach Walk & Island Exploration  
Clearwater Aquarium - Marine Biology Master Class Series  
Ecology Tour by Sea Kayak  
Beach Time + Scavenger Hunt  
Personal Tour Director  
24-hour emergency cover

**What's Not Included:**

Fully comprehensive insurance (**mandatory**)  
Baggage costs, pay directly to airline if required  
Baggage handling - everyone should be able to pull / load their own bag  
Transfers to/from home airport  
Transportation for activities not shown in the itinerary  
Lunches nor snacks / beverages outside of meal times  
Cost of personal passports, visas or visa waiver fees  
Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel  
Sightseeing / Entertainment not shown in Itinerary  
Hotel incidental deposits & bills – mini-bar, movies, etc.  
Gratuities – drivers, hotel services, area guides, tour director  
Credit card fees if individuals wish to pay via credit card instead of ACH (online check)

**As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming. If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.**



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