

MARINE EDUCATION CENTER

The Marine Education Center (MEC) at The University of Southern Mississippi's Cedar Point site in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, serves as the education and outreach arm of the School of Ocean Science and Engineering.

OUR PROGRAMS

MEC programs reflect coastal science research conducted within the Gulf of Mexico and provide participants with a better understanding of the Gulf. This approach advances the understanding of coastal and marine science within the public sector and provides the tools coastal residents can use to become more effective stewards and advocates

for the Gulf of Mexico through innovative, field-based educational experiences.

Teachers bring their students to the MEC for an outdoor, immersive program knowing the experience can have a profound impact on a young person's life, sparking an interest in a STEM career.

K — 12 Field Trips

- **Coastal Explorer**
In this unique three-hour field trip program, teachers choose from eight exciting topics to create their own rich marine education experience, such as shark biology with shark dissection or coastal habitats.
- **Miss Peetsy B Bayou Tours**
The Miss Peetsy B Bayou Tour is a three hour program and includes hands-on experiences in our floating classrooms, waterfront classrooms and laboratories.
- **One- Three-Day Coastal Science Camps**
The field trip of a lifetime in the ultimate outdoor classroom! Coastal Science Camp participants enjoy hands-on and field experience focused on dynamic coastal habitats, marine plants and animals, and current research at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL).
- **There's a Marine Biologist in my Classroom**
Our team of marine educators will pack up their artifacts, equipment, and specimens to deliver a hands-on learning experience so every student feels like a marine biologist. Let us bring the world of dolphins and sharks to your classroom.

Camps

- **Ocean Science and Technology Camp**
 - Learn about the expedition's ROV *Odyssey* from Pelagic Research Services
 - Build and test ROVs.
 - Board *R/V Jim Franks* for a scientific cruise in the Gulf of Mexico
 - Learn to use hydrophones, cameras, plankton tows
 - Launch and retrieve a USM Glider
- **Sea Camp**
Participants explore coastal salt marshes with educators aboard the university research vessel, the *Miss Peetsy B*. Activities include live animal encounters with coastal wildlife and opportunities to fish, crab, seine and sieve.
- **Shaggy's Angler Camp**
Fishing, fishing and more fishing. Anglers will learn how to throw a net to catch bait and how to target speckled trout, redfish and flounder.
- **Sharkheads Shark Fest**
Participants may encounter Atlantic sharpnose, bonnethead, blacktip, spinner, hammerhead and bull sharks. Board vessels to long line for sharks and participate in shark research with our USM scientists.