



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

GULF COAST RESEARCH LABORATORY

MARINE EDUCATION CENTER

703 East Beach Drive | Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Phone: 228-818-8890 | Fax: 228-818-8894 | www.usm.edu/gcrl/mec

I am very pleased that you have chosen the Marine Education Center (MEC) as the provider of your group's educational program. The MEC has provided field-based educational programs to students of all ages for over 30 years. It is our vision to inspire our program participants to become effective stewards of our coastal ecosystem through innovative educational experiences.

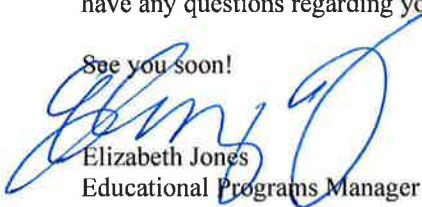
The campus of the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) in Ocean Springs, MS, provides the all-inclusive base of operations for Coastal Sciences Camps. The GCRL campus features research laboratories, technology enabled classrooms, a recently renovated dormitory and a cafeteria serving three meals per day.

The MEC/GCRL staff makes every effort to assure that your stay on our campus is pleasurable and worry free. Within this document, you will find important information regarding your upcoming visit to our campus. Below is a list of important items of note.

- Generalized itineraries – These are samples of the educational programs commonly booked by groups. Please know that we can customize itineraries to emphasize your group's area of interest or meet your educational needs. Most often, groups choose a two day camp option, but we are happy to work with you to design a program of longer duration.
- Facilities Handbook - Please review this document thoroughly for information about our campus. Inside you will find emergency contact information, campus and area maps, and other general information about our facilities and camps. In an effort to better serve our customers, we have included answers to frequently asked questions about evening entertainment, off campus dining options, and other recreational opportunities. A careful study of this document will provide answers to many questions you may have regarding your stay.

We look forward to a very engaging and meaningful coastal experience with you and your students. Should you have any questions regarding your camp, feel free to contact me at 228-818-8886 or elizabeth.r.jones@usm.edu.

See you soon!



Elizabeth Jones
Educational Programs Manager