

# EXPEDITION HMNS *Shark Tagging*

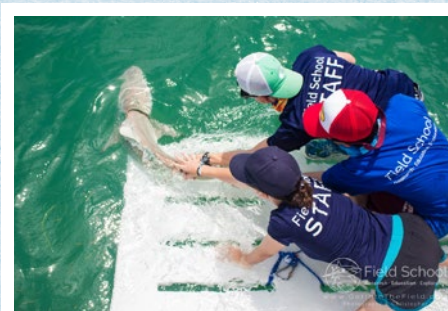
IN MIAMI, FL

NOVEMBER 8 & 9, 2025



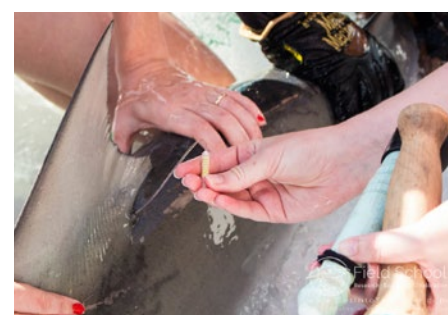
Sharks are some of the most fascinating, misunderstood, and ecologically essential animals on Earth, and many are now at risk of extinction. Each day, researchers and conservationists work to better understand and protect these incredible creatures. Now you can be part of that effort.

Join **HMNS** and the **Field School** in Miami for a hands-on shark research expedition, where you'll safely catch, handle, and tag sharks, contributing to vital conservation efforts. Then, explore the Everglades on an airboat tour through its winding waterways, home to rare wildlife like manatees, crocodiles, and the Florida panther. Experience the rich wildlife and stunning views while you adventure through one of the world's most unique ecosystems.



## WAIT...SHARK TAGGING?!

Yes! Shark tagging is an important research technique used to track shark movements and behavior by attaching specialized tags. On this trip, you'll help researchers apply these tags, which, upon recapture, provide valuable data—identifying individual sharks, age and growth, and location. This information helps scientists study migration routes, longevity, geographic distributions, and movements—key insights for protecting shark species. It's a hands-on experience that directly supports real-world conservation efforts.



## PRICING

HMNS Members Per Person

\$1,850

Non-Members Per Person

\$2,050

Travel and accommodation are not included, and all participants will meet us in Miami. Ages 16+: All minors must be accompanied by a ticketed adult.

## REGISTRATION REQUIRES

- Per person non-refundable deposit
- Completed registration forms
- Copy of your driver's license



# EXPEDITION HMNS *Shark Tagging* IN MIAMI, FL

## DAY 1 | SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8 Everglades National Park

Today we venture into the Everglades National Park—the largest subtropical wilderness in the U.S., spanning 1.5 million acres—on a thrilling airboat tour through its shallow, winding waterways. This slow-moving river is home to a wide range of rare wildlife, including manatees, American crocodiles, black bears, roseate spoonbills, and the elusive Florida panther.

After the guided tour, you will have time to explore the area on your own! It's an unforgettable journey through one of North America's most unique ecosystems.



## DAY 2 | SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 Shark Science

Prepare for a full day on the water, starting at 8:00 AM. We'll return to the dock around 4:30/5:00 PM. Lunch will be provided on the boat.

Aboard the research vessel Garvin, you'll learn how to safely catch, handle, and tag sharks while gaining hands-on experience with the tools and techniques used by field scientists. Explore how tagging data aids shark conservation and protects their populations. This is your opportunity to work with different shark species using safe, research-driven methods that prioritize their well-being. With over 40 years of combined experience and thousands of hours spent on and in the water, the Field School team brings expert knowledge in shark research and handling.

## GUEST INSTRUCTOR | DR. DAVID SHIFFMAN

Dr. David Shiffman (@whysharksmatter) is a marine conservation biologist and an award-winning science communicator. He has been interviewed over 200 times, and has bylines in the Washington Post, Scientific American, New Scientist, Gizmodo, and more. One of the most-followed scientists on twitter and one of the most widely read science bloggers, has trained over 500 scientists how to communicate their area of expertise to the public.





### PRICING

\$1,850 HMNS Members per person

\$2,050 Non-Members per person

### Price Includes:

- 3 meals (2 Lunches, 1 Dinner)
- Accompanying expert: Stephanie Bradberry
- Transportation for itinerary activities

### Price Does Not Include:

- Flights, travel insurance, or baggage handling
- Accommodations
- Any meals not listed above
- Optional excursions
- Additional transportation outside the itinerary

### REGISTRATION

Registration requires [A] a per person non-refundable deposit of \$1,000 for HMNS members and non-members, [B] completed registration form, [C] copy of your current driver's license/ID (must be a federally approved REAL ID).

**This trip is for ages 16+.** Each minor must be accompanied by one ticketed adult guardian.

By registering you understand and agree to the *Cancellations & Refunds* and *Traveler Terms & Conditions* listing *Physical Requirements; Participant Requirements, Responsibilities and Notices; Participation Advisory; Houston Museum of Natural Science—Release & Consent; and Field School—Release and Consent*.

Availability is based on order of complete registration. **Final payment is due October 1, 2025.**

### ID REQUIREMENTS

As of May 7, 2025, state-issued driver's licenses and IDs that are not REAL ID compliant are no longer accepted as valid forms of identification at airports.

Passengers should either travel with an acceptable alternative form of ID, like a passport, or enroll for a state-issued REAL ID through their state DMV offices.

Passengers who present a state-issued identification that is not REAL ID compliant at TSA checkpoints and who do not have another acceptable alternative form of ID will be notified of their non-compliance, may be

directed to a separate area and may receive additional screening. This includes TSA PreCheck passengers.

Visit <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification> for more details.

### CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

- Cancellations must be received by HMNS in writing.
- Cancellations received on or before October 1, 2025 will forfeit 100% of the deposit.
- Cancellations received October 2 to October 5, 2025 will forfeit \$1,200 of the total payment which includes 100% of the deposit.
- Cancellations received October 6, 2025 and beyond and "no shows" will forfeit 100% of the final payment and 100% of the deposit.
- No refunds will be issued for missed group activities on the trip including meals, transportation transfers, tours and other services voluntarily not taken.
- If for any reason HMNS or The Field School cancels this trip, HMNS will use commercially reasonable efforts to work with travelers and The Field School to refund all recoverable funds but does not guarantee that a full refund will be available. HMNS reserves the right to cancel, postpone or reschedule the trip for any reason and at any point in time, up to and including during the period of travel.
- It is recommended that travelers secure their own travel insurance policies to cover the circumstance that some funds are unrecoverable through HMNS and The Field School.

### TRAVELER TERMS & CONDITIONS

Acknowledgment and agreement to the below traveler terms and conditions by signature on the registration form is required for trip registration.

### Physical Requirements

- This trip requires physical independence and mobility. Participants should be in good physical condition and capable of traversing unpaved terrain.
- Travelers requiring assistance must travel with a companion who will be responsible for assisting them.

**Ready to register?**

[Click here](#) to pay the nonrefundable deposit.

- Participants are responsible for carrying their own luggage and belongings.
- Travelers must be able to climb stairs and step on unpaved terrain and moving around on a boat without assistance or with minimal assistance from your traveling companion.
- Unfortunately, handicap accessibility is not in all areas.
- In case of an emergency situation, any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or other assistance must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. This includes allergies, dietary restrictions, as well as mental, mobility, vision and hearing impairments. HMNS may make efforts to accommodate such conditions or impairments in its sole discretion, but each participant is solely responsible for any physical or mental condition or other impairments.
- If asked, participants will provide a written release from your doctor stating your level of physical fitness or mental health is adequate for this trip.
- Notify [travel@hmns.org](mailto:travel@hmns.org) prior to registration to inquire about accommodations that are necessary for you to enjoy the trip prior to registration. HMNS may make efforts to make special accommodations in its sole discretion, but each participant is solely responsible for such special accommodations.
- dismissal from the trip with no refund for missed activities.
- Trip leaders and staff will be treated with utmost courtesy at all times. Trip leaders and staff are there not only to instruct but also to ensure the safety of the property as well as the participants.
- The minimum age of participant for this trip is 16 years. Each minor must be accompanied by one ticketed adult guardian. Guardians are responsible for the supervision and safety of their minors. Misbehaving or disrespectful minors could be asked, along with their parents/guardians, to leave the trip with no refund for missed activities.
- At times participants may be in isolated locations where response to a medical emergency could be lengthy, or emergency responses may not be available.
- Smoking (including e-cigarettes) and open flames are not permitted.
- Illegal substances and firearms are not allowed.
- All travelers must bring a device with WhatsApp for communication with trip leaders during trip.
- Participants are not considered registered participants until their receipt of Trip Confirmation Notification from HMNS. This requires a fully completed registration form, paid deposit and copy of driver's license/ID.
- No partial refunds will be made for missed activities. Participants who are late for the departure are responsible for making their own arrangements to meet the group.
- The trip itinerary and accommodations are subject to change due to inclement weather and unforeseen events.
- Participants must book their own accommodations.
- Ground transportation during the trip is included in the trip package.

### **Participant Requirements, Responsibilities & Notices**

- Participants should be in good physical condition and capable of traversing unpaved terrain and moving around on a boat. Unfortunately, not all areas are handicap accessible. Please check with HMNS prior to registration if you have any required accessibility accommodations that are necessary for you to enjoy the trip prior to registration. HMNS may make efforts to make special accommodations in its sole discretion, but each participant is solely responsible for accessibility accommodations.
- Participants must be self-sufficient and carry their own belongings and luggage.
- Participants are expected to conduct themselves in a safe and courteous manner. Unsafe, unprofessional, or otherwise inappropriate behavior (as determined by the trip leaders or expedition guides) could result in your immediate

### **Participation Advisory**

- Trip leaders and staff have the right to deny a participant's participation in an activity if, in the sole judgment and discretion of HMNS or The Field School, the participant and safety of others could be compromised. You should only sign up for this trip if you are confident you are capable of the physical requirements and responsibilities listed above.

**Ready to register?**  
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- HMNS reserves the right to accept or decline any individuals as members of the trip.
- HMNS reserves the right to charge an extended service fee for travelers who require additional assistance during the trip.

**HOUSTON MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE—  
RELEASE AND CONSENT**

- Although HMNS hopes that no participant is ever injured or hurt, injuries are a possibility of participation in this Trip. The participant acknowledges and voluntarily agrees to assume the risks of injuries, illness, and death by registering for and participating in this Trip. The participant understands and agrees that HMNS, its contractors (including but not limited to The Field School), subcontractors, affiliates, directors, officers, volunteers, employees, agents, or representatives are not responsible for the risks of injuries, illness, or death and shall not be liable to participant or anyone acting for or on behalf of participant for injury, illness, or death arising out of this Trip.
- THE PARTICIPANT VOLUNTARILY AGREES TO RELEASE, DISCHARGE, HOLD HARMLESS, AND WAIVE ANY AND ALL RIGHTS TO SUE HMNS, ITS AFFILIATES, PARENTS, SUBSIDIARIES, DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEERS, AGENTS, CONTRACTORS, SUBCONTRACTORS, REPRESENTATIVES AND ALL PERSONS ACTING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR IN CONCERT WITH ANY OF THE FOREGOING (COLLECTIVELY, THE “RELEASED PARTIES”) FOR ANY AND ALL LOSSES, DEMANDS, CLAIMS, LAWSUITS, LEGAL PROCEEDINGS, CAUSES OF ACTION, LIABILITY, FINES, PENALTIES, COSTS, DAMAGES, OR EXPENSES OF ANY KIND AND CHARACTER (INCLUDING ATTORNEYS’ FEES AND OTHER LEGAL EXPENSES), AND JUDGMENTS ARISING IN FAVOR OF THE PARTICIPANT OR ANYONE CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, OR UNDER THE PARTICIPANT IN CONNECTION WITH, RELATING TO OR ARISING OUT OF, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, THE PARTICIPANT’S PARTICIPATION IN THE TRIP (COLLECTIVELY, “CLAIMS”), REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH CLAIMS ARE BASED IN LAW, EQUITY, STATUTE, CONTRACT, TORT, STRICT LIABILITY, PROPERTY DAMAGE, PERSONAL INJURY (INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION EMOTIONAL DISTRESS), ILLNESS, OR DEATH, AND REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH CLAIMS ARE

CAUSED, CONTRIBUTED TO, OR ARISING OUT OF THE RELEASED PARTIES’ SOLE, JOINT, OR CONCURRENT NEGLIGENCE, STRICT LIABILITY, VIOLATION OF ANY STATUTE, OR ANY OTHER FAULT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY NEGLIGENT ACT, OMISSION, OR INTENTIONAL ACT BY THE RELEASED PARTIES.

- The participant hereby gives his/her permission to the Released Parties to obtain emergency medical treatment for the participant if any Released Party deems in its discretion that such emergency medical treatment is necessary. The Released Parties have no liability as to any such medical treatment, including the outcome of such medical treatment, or whether such medical treatment is provided to a participant.
- The participant acknowledges and agrees that any photos, videos, pictorial images, voice recordings, or quotations including those of participant taken, created or shared by any Released Party (including without limitation any taken by any photographer or videographer paid by or volunteering for any Released Party) during or relating to the Program may be used by HMNS in future publications, web pages, promotions, advertisements, social media and exhibits of HMNS (or any other person authorized to use such images by HMNS) without the need of any additional permission from or consideration to the participant.

**THE FIELD SCHOOL — RELEASE AND CONSENT**

- I voluntarily release and agree to hold harmless and indemnify The Field School, their staff and volunteers, and all other persons or entities acting in any capacity on its behalf, from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions, or rights of action, whether known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, relating to or arising out of my presence or activities while on a The Field School excursion.
- I give The Field School staff and/or volunteers permission to assist in medical assistance in the event of an emergency. Please contact my emergency contact listed below in case of emergency.
- I give The Field School permission to use my image in photographs in print or digital media.

**Ready to register?**

[Click here](#) to pay the nonrefundable deposit.