



# Outside the Classroom

Wind and Water Learning Center  
City of Orange Beach | Coastal Resources

# Wind and Water Learning Center

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# Hands-on Experiences

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The City of Orange Beach Wind and Water Learning Center is committed to enhancing life for locals and guests by providing coastal access, facilities, equipment, field trip opportunities and education for sailing and paddling sports. We are an active member of U.S. Sailing and an affiliate of the American Canoe Association, following many of their accredited classes and guidelines.

Our goals are to increase students' environmental literacy, expose them to STEAM careers at a local level, provide pathways for them to become stewards of coastal resources, and develop a sense of place so they understand why and how to protect



# Outdoor Programming and Education

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- Orange Beach Sail Club | Aug - Oct, Feb - May
  - High school sail club programming
  - Leadership skills
  - Rules of the Road
  - Navigation
  - Race course design
- Orange Beach Sail Camp
  - Leadership skills
  - Understanding wind patterns, currents, etc
  - Teamwork
  - Boating safety



# Outdoor Programming and Education

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- Waterway Stewardship
  - Collect and share data for Alabama Water Watch water quality monitoring program
  - Characterize and upload marine debris data in the Clean Swell app
  - Explore ways to alter our consumer behaviors to minimize the amount of single-use and microplastics in local water bodies
  - Water quality monitoring and data reporting for the watershed management plan
- Watershed Function
  - Model watershed to see how nonpoint source pollution affects water bodies
  - Discover ways to mitigate and prevent local waterway pollution
  - Water quality monitoring and data reporting for the watershed management plan

# Outdoor Programming and Education



- Wolf Bay Ecology
  - Conduct bioassessment and diversity surveys within Wolf Bay with seine netting, field identification, data collection, and interpretation
  - Learn about the crucial roles coastal wetlands and natural shorelines play in maintaining biodiversity within the GFPW and the ecosystem services they provide to coastal communities
- Paddle and Paint
  - Learn about Wolf Bay, its surrounding habitats, and the long history of field naturalists who integrated art and science
  - Practice observation skills and use watercolor as a way to communicate about the local environment through field guides
- Ecotourism
  - Kayak through the southern part of Wolf Bay
  - Key aspects of ecotourism and its value to our community and local ecosystems
  - Make connections between consumer behaviors, healthy ecosystems, and sustainable local economies



# QUESTIONS?

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