



NOSARA EXPLORER ACADEMY

We are excited to announce new educational offerings for homeschoolers starting 2021! The Nosara Explorer Academy is a four-week program that offers students a unique opportunity to learn first-hand what a career as a marine biologist and wildlife conservationist is like, participate in hands-on activities with our organization, and contribute real data for conservation in the area.

Students will receive one-on-one mentorship with Dr. Vanessa Bezy, a National Geographic Explorer with over 10 years of experience in the area. Program activities include brief discussions and demonstrations, and hands-on activities in the field. Students who participate in the full four-week program will receive a program certificate at the end of the course and will have the opportunity to stay involved as a long-term volunteer with our organization.

We encourage students to participate in one week minimum and offer discounts for students participating in the full four-week course. Students participating more than one day should expect approximately 1 – 2 hrs of homework per week.

See the following pages for the full program schedule.

Package	Cost per student (taxes and fees included)
Daily	\$54.89
Weekly	\$145.87
Four weeks	\$485.52

*We accept students ages 10+ with a minimum of 5 and maximum of 10 students.
We request the presence or assistance of one or two parents for field expeditions.*

Learn more about the Wildlife Conservation Association at www.wcanosara.org
Learn more about Dr. Vanessa Bezy at www.vanessabezy.com

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Program Schedule

Meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Meeting time to be determined (suggested times are 7 – 9 AM or 1 – 3 PM). Our program schedule is flexible and will be confirmed upon registration. Dates and times are weather permitting for some activities. In the event of inclement weather, we will work with you to reschedule.

Week 1 - Sea Turtle Conservation

Monday	Meet Dr. Vanessa Bezy (2 hrs)	Meet Vanessa, hear her story, learn all about her job as a marine biologist and wildlife conservationist in the area and her experience as a National Geographic Explorer.
Wednesday	A Day in the Life of a Sea Turtle Biologist (2 hrs)	Learn first-hand what it's like to be a sea turtle biologist. Learn about the sea turtle nesting process, how to identify tracks, and collect data, and how you can help report sea turtle tracks here on our beaches.
Friday	Boat Expedition** (4 hrs)	Explore the marine protected area and witness for yourself the biodiversity in our oceans. Learn all about our study on sea turtle behavior using an underwater drone, with a show and tell of the drone and exclusive underwater footage of sea turtles. <i>**\$300 boat cost not included (8 am - 12 pm)</i>

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Week 2 - Wildlife Conservation

Monday	Local Biodiversity and the iNaturalist App (2 hrs)	Learn all about our camera trap study of the Nosara Civic Association's parklands and how you can contribute scientific data by submitting observations on the iNaturalist app.
Wednesday	Tide Pool Expedition (2 hrs)	Explore the tide pools at low tide, learn all about the intertidal habitat, find and identify creatures from within the pools.
Friday	Trail Expedition (2 hrs)	Explore the NCA trails, learn all about the tropical dry forest ecosystem, find and identify creatures in the jungle.

Week 3 - Watersheds and Water Quality

Monday	Watersheds and Water Pollution (2 hrs)	Learn all about our watershed, where water pollution comes from, and how our water quality monitoring program works.
Wednesday	Water Sampling Expedition (2 hrs)	Meet at the Rio Nosara rivermouth, collect a water sample, and watch a demonstration of our lab procedure to analyze water quality.
Friday	Water Quality Lab Tour (2 hrs)	Analyze the results of our analysis the next day with an interactive virtual experience of our private lab, guided by Vanessa.

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Week 4 - Plastic Pollution in the Ocean

Monday	Plastic Pollution & Marine Debris Tracker (2 hrs)	Learn how trash ends up in the ocean, the impact it has on marine life, and how you can contribute scientific data to by submitting observations during trash cleanups on the Marine Debris Tracker app.
Wednesday	Sea to Source Expedition (2 hrs)	Students will pick a location to collect data and set out on a sea to source expedition, collecting data on the trash they find
Friday	Become a Change maker (2 hrs)	Students will analyze the data collected and brainstorm an action they can take towards a solution with the information they have. Students are invited to carry out the action as a group as a final project together.

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Details for Each Activity

A Day in the Life of a Sea Turtle Biologist

Meeting Point: Baker's Beach Entrance to Playa Guiones (marker number 34)

What to wear/bring: light, comfortable clothing, flip flops or barefoot, reusable water bottle, sun protection, snacks

What's included: all materials and supplies, model sea turtle and nest, measuring tape, tagging pliers, flipper tag, datasheet, pencil

Boat Expedition

Meeting Point: Pilos Bar, Playa Garza

****Additional cost for this activity:** \$300 (to be split amongst students)**

What to wear/bring: light, comfortable clothing, wear your bathing suit, flip flops or barefoot, reusable water bottle, sun protection, food/snacks if you have special dietary needs

What's included: drinks, snacks, snorkels, fins, comfortable boat with bathroom and shade, laminated marine species field guide

Tide Pool Expedition

Meeting Point: Baker's Beach Entrance to Playa Guiones *AT LOW TIDE

What to wear/bring: light, comfortable clothing, water shoes or sandals to protect your feet on the rocks, reusable water bottle, sun protection, snacks, smartphone with the iNaturalist app (optional but encouraged)

What's included: identification guides, buckets to observe animals in, fish nets, sifters

Trail Expedition

Meeting Point: NCA trail (students pick)

What to wear/bring: light, comfortable clothing, hiking shoes or sandals to protect your feet on the trails (rainboots in the rainy season), reusable water bottle, sun protection, snacks, binoculars (if you have some), smartphone with the iNaturalist app (optional but encouraged)

What's included: identification guides, binoculars, notebook, pencil

Water Sampling Expedition

Meeting Point: Boca Nosara

What to wear/bring: light, comfortable clothing, water shoes or closed toed sandals, reusable water bottle, sun protection, snacks

Whats included: sample collection bag, lab demonstration

What to know: you will be wading into the water to knee-depth, wear shorts and shoes you don't mind getting wet!

Sea to Source

Meeting Point: Area in need of cleaning up (students pick)

What to wear/bring: light, comfortable clothing, reusable gloves, trash bags, closed-toed shoes, reusable water bottle, sun protection, snacks, smartphone with Marine Debris Tracker app (optional but encouraged)