## **SUMMER CAMP 2018**

looking for a great local kids camp?



Daniel Tackus Learning how to throw a Cast Net

When I start thinking about summer camp for our boys, ages 10 and 13, I try to find places they will enjoy and able to create memories. Living in Florida, we are fortunate to have great weather year-round and being outdoors is part of our normalcy. We spend a great amount of time over the summer boating and fishing as much as possible. Both boys have a passion for the outdoors - fishing being the top of their list.

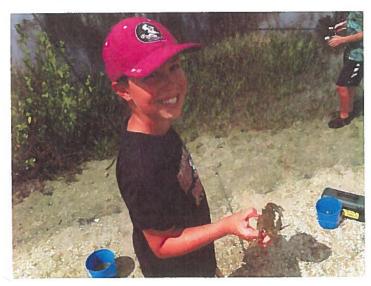
Last year in my summer camp search, I came across the Suncoast Youth Conservation Center (www.fycen.com/suncoast) and it's very close to Waterset (just down the street from the Manatee Viewing Center). The Camp is part of the Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network, a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) program dedicated to Creating the Next Generation That Cares™ about fish and wildlife conservation.

I immediately signed them up for Fishing and Kayaking camps. They learned so much at the camp and had hands-on experience at the Center. They each received their own fishing pole and tackle box! This year, they are adding a Marine Science Camp "where students will learn about the animals found within various marine habitats. They'll also use the same tools and techniques scientists use to study a range of marine wildlife from birds to fish. Games, experiments, crafts, recreational activities and sessions with a scientist will be used to connect students with the outdoor world."

Some of the fun that the boys had was learning to rig a rod, tie knots, select a bait, throw a cast net, build a tackle box, follow the regulations, and dissect fish. Kayaking is also part of fishing camp and fishing is part of kayak camp! I am relieved that I have three weeks scheduled for summer camps so far and the boys are looking forward to going. We have heard that they may even tag sharks in the Marine Science Camp!



Daniel Tackus Ready to Fish



Ryan Tackus Catches a Blue Crab

If you would like to learn more about the camps and registration, here is the contact information: http://fyccn.com/SYCC\_Summer\_ Camp or 813-922-7969