



EXPEDITION PROFILE

February 20th, 2020 aboard DISCOVERY Yacht Julia

On February 20th, 2020, 6 Miami WaterKeeper Junior Ambassadors were able to once again participate in a research cruise aboard Fleet Miami's *Julia*. Students from various surrounding high schools learned about their backyard environment and how scientists collect data that informs the public regarding issues of pollution and water quality.

The Miami Waterkeeper Junior Ambassador program is a year-long program that develops a cohort of high school students into young environmental leaders. Through the Junior Ambassador program, South Florida students become community leaders by gaining an understanding of issues impacting Biscayne Bay and the surrounding watershed, receiving training in civic engagement and advocacy, sharing their acquired knowledge with diverse audiences, and helping to organize interactive volunteer events. This program helps students become versed in the complex relationship between social, environmental, governmental, and economic issues that are central to cultivating a culture of environmental awareness and advocacy in South Florida, which is relevant worldwide.

The Junior Ambassadors were taken to the mouth of Little River as it connects to Biscayne Bay, where runoff is introduced directly to the ocean and our anthropogenic effects on the environment are at their most visible. The Ambassadors performed various water quality tests to analyze properties such as dissolved oxygen concentration, pH, and turbidity using Secchi discs. The data was used to get a better understanding of what was really going on in the water. They took their learning to the next level by doing something to help in response to seeing pollution in action - and took part in cleaning up Pelican Island, resulting in 5 bags of trash collected, weighing in at 46 pounds!

A huge thank you to Miami WaterKeeper again for partnering with SeaKeepers to cultivate environmental consciousness and activism through the floating classroom program, and to Fleet Miami for providing *Julia* as the vessel with which to reach young minds. We look forward to continuing encouraging civic engagement and coastal advocacy with you again soon!

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