



EXPEDITION PROFILE

March 14th, 2021 aboard DISCOVERY Yacht Julia

On March 14th, 2020, Miami WaterKeepers' Junior Ambassadors joined us on Fleet Miami's *Julia*. We left from Morningside Park and were able to show everyone various water sampling and quality testing techniques to prepare them for futures in science, or give them a well-informed background for whatever ocean advocacy they choose to do in the future!

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 8 Junior Ambassadors performed various water quality tests to analyze properties such as temperature, dissolved oxygen concentration, pH, and turbidity using Secchi discs. They used the EarthEcho water test kit and an advanced YSI probe to record data manually and electronically! We've been monitoring the area where the Little Mouth River enters Biscayne Bay as it can be a source of fertilizer and sometimes sewage runoff into the bay, creating conditions that are just right for algae blooms. The Ambassadors got to see firsthand how human activity can affect the water quality of the Bay. As always, we cleaned up Pelican Island, and collected 3 bags of trash for a grand total of 32 pounds! Additionally we engaged in a discussion of how to be sustainable in everyday life – from using reusable water bottles, to skipping the straw.

Thank you so much to Miami WaterKeeper partnering with SeaKeepers for the floating classroom, we love doing science with you! And to Fleet Miami for providing *Julia*, you are an essential and much appreciated piece of the ocean-awareness-and-advocacy-puzzle – we are so grateful for you! See everyone on the next floating classroom!

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