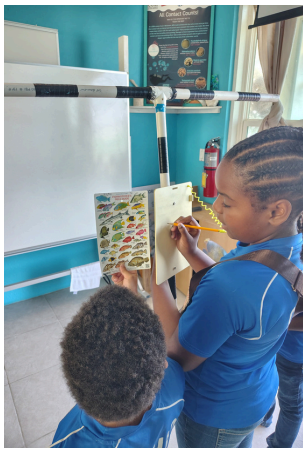
ECO-WARRIOR CHALLENGE 2025

TEACHER´S GUIDE

to win your class an all-expenses paid school trip to CCMI on Little Cayman

Government school year 5 and 6 classes can win an all-expenses-paid class scholarship to attend 3-day/2-night Marine Ecology Course (MEC) at the Central Caribbean Marine Institute (CCMI)!









Important Dates

📬 Applications open:

10 August

🗂️ Submission deadline:

3 October

🧐 Judging period:

7-14 October

🏆 Winners announced:

17 October

MEC Dates

Option 1: 12-14 November, 2025

Option 2: 18-20 November, 2025

Option 3: 26-28 November, 2025

Option 4: 2-4 December, 2025

Option 5: 8-10 December, 2025

CCMI
CENTRAL CARIBBEAN MARINE INSTITUTE

phone: +1 (345) 948-1094

mail: education@reefresearch.org

www.reefresearch.org

Many thanks to

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CAYMAN ISLANDS
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The BODA Charitable Star Trust

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for making this opportunity possible.

Eco-Warrior Challenge 2025 Theme
“Sustaining What Sustains Us”

This year’s Eco-Warrior Challenge invites students in Cayman Islands Government schools (Years 5 and 6) to imagine the future through the lens of sustainability, creativity, and stewardship. Inspired by the global World Ocean Day theme “Wonder: Sustaining What Sustains Us” and Caribbean Tourism Month (November), students will engage in a fun, hands-on project that challenges them to:

Design your own sustainable island

*Thanks to our sponsors, four classes from Cayman Islands Government primary schools will be selected from the challenge to receive a **Marine Ecology Course** at CCMI - at no cost to them!*

What is the Marine Ecology Course?

The MEC is more than a three-day field trip - it's a meaningful educational experience that empowers the next generation to understand and appreciate the ecological significance of local marine ecosystems.





The MEC is more than a three-day field trip - it's a meaningful educational experience that empowers the next generation to understand and appreciate the ecological significance of local marine ecosystems. Guided by CCMI’s expert team of marine scientists and educators, students explore the pristine reefs of Little Cayman. The course covers tropical marine biology, ecology, and conservation through immersive activities such as snorkelling, species identification, beach cleanups, field trips, lionfish dissections, a range of interactive classes, and much more!

How does this programme align with the Cayman Islands National Science Curriculum?

Eco-Warrior Challenge:

- Reporting and presenting findings from enquiries, including conclusions, causal relationships, and explanations of and degree of trust in results, in oral and written forms such as displays and other presentations
- Planning several types of scientific enquiries to answer questions, including recognizing, and controlling variables where necessary
- Identifying scientific evidence that has been used to support or refute ideas or arguments

Marine Ecology Course:

- Identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in diverse ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution

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340+
students have attended the BODA MEC since 2017

100
students/chaperones can win this incredible opportunity THIS YEAR

94%
of students felt confident in their ability to identify Caymanian species after the MEC

100%
of students learned something new about the ocean or marine life

100%
of chaperones would recommend this programme

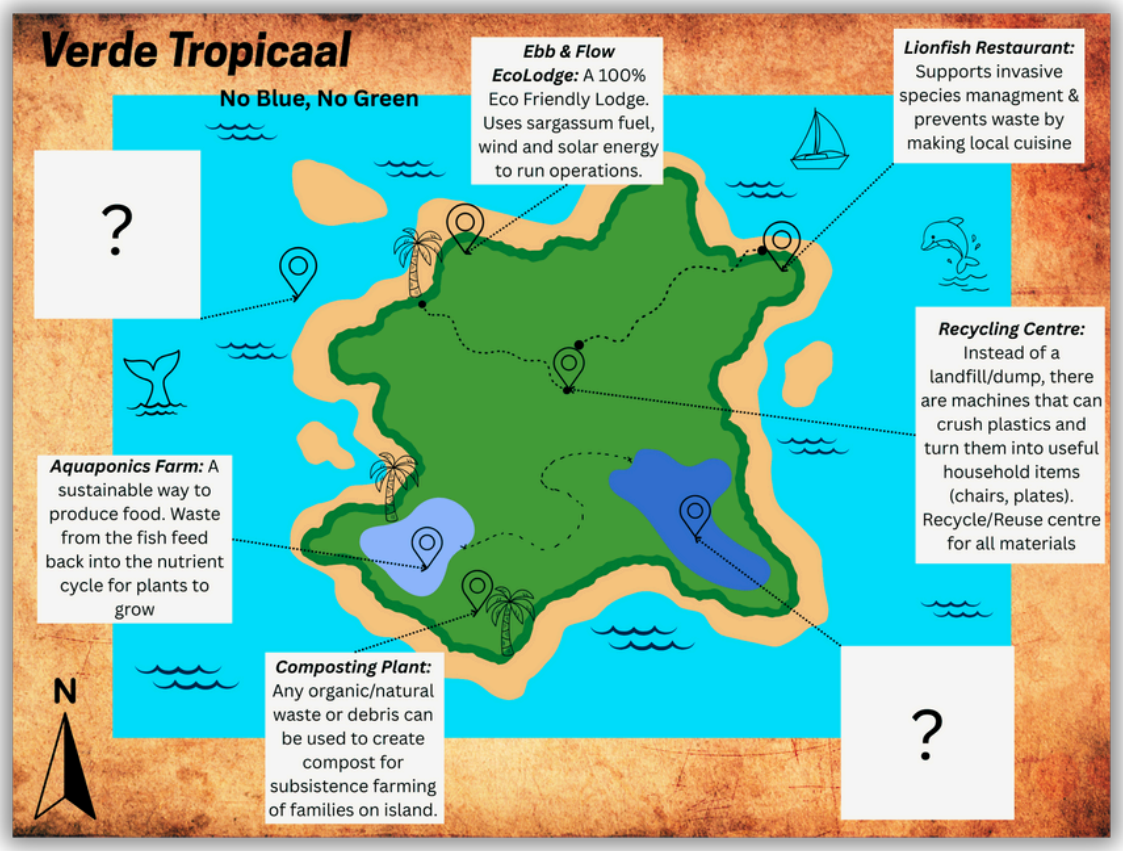
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Complete the 2025 Eco-Warrior Challenge

Each participating class will imagine and design their own 100% sustainable island. Sustainability can be defined as many things however, a good guideline for the challenge is the following definition by Gro Harlem Brundtland, Our Common Future (The Brundtland Report), 1987.
“Environmental sustainability is the ability to preserve and protect the natural environment over time through appropriate practices and policies, meeting present needs without compromising the availability of resources in the future.

The main objective of this challenge is to encourage students to think about the balance between the environment, people, policies and businesses. This imaginative and creative task merges environmental science with innovation, teamwork, and Caymanian pride.



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Application checklist

All schools must submit a digital project package by **5 pm on Friday, 3rd October 2025** to be reviewed by our judging panel.

What to Submit:

1. **Completed application (required)**
2. **Photos or a short video (required):**
   - Submit 3–5 clear photos showing different angles of the project (model, map, poster, etc.), or
   - A short video (max 2 minutes) with students presenting the project and highlighting its key features
3. **Written summary (required):**
   - A short explanation (200–300 words) covering:
     - Key sustainability features
     - What makes your island unique
     - How your team worked together
4. **Optional supporting material:**
   - Photos or scans of sketches, planning notes, or your team working on the project (optional, but welcomed)

How to Submit:

- Send digital files via email (if under 10 MB) to education@reefresearch.org or via an online transfer service such as WeTransfer or SwissTransfer

Important:

- This submission is required for the project to be reviewed
- Late submissions may not be considered
- Please ensure all students are aware of possible MEC date options when submitting the project (see application)
- If your class is selected, you will need to send CCMI a full list of students' and chaperones' names and birthdates for ease of securing your flights to CCMI (due by 24 October 2025).

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Judging guidelines

A panel of judges will review all entries and score applications out of 100 points across four categories, with the top four applications winning the class scholarships to CCMI!



1. Sustainable features (50 points)

This is a key category that encourages students to think about how their island could operate in harmony with nature. It's a chance to explore real-world environmental ideas while letting creativity shine.

- **Energy, tourism, waste, and water**: They may explore renewable energy, eco-friendly tourism, recycling systems, or clean water use.
- **Natural environment:** Students might imagine marine protected areas, coral reefs, green spaces, or wildlife habitats.
- **Balancing nature and people:** How do people live on the island without harming the environment? Ideas could include growing food locally, biking instead of driving, or using shared green spaces.
- **Overall design:** We encourage creative and thoughtful designs. Students don't need to include everything just show how their chosen ideas connect and support a sustainable future.

2. Creativity and presentation (30 points)

This category focuses on how students bring their vision to life through creativity and design.



- **Island name, flag/logo, or motto:** Encourage students to think of an imaginative name for their sustainable island, along with a symbol or phrase that reflects creativity, and eco-values.
- **Visual presentation (map, model, or poster):** Students should build or draw a model, map, or other visual aid that is colourful, detailed, and engaging. It should clearly represent their island's layout and key features.



3. Environmental and community values (10 points)

This category highlights how students think about rules, education, and community action.

- **Environmental rules:** Students can create laws or guidelines for protecting the environment
- **Community engagement:** Encourage students to think of ways to involve residents or tourists in sustainability through events, education, or community gardens.

4. Explanation and storytelling (10 points)

This section looks at how well students can explain their ideas and connect everything into a story.



- **Explanation:** Students should be able to clearly describe each part of their island and how it helps the environment.
- **Story or message:** A creative narrative or theme helps tie the whole project together. It could be a story about life on the island or a message of hope for the future.

Important Dates

Application timeline:

📬 Applications open:	10 August
🗂️ Submission deadline:	3 October
🧐 Judging period:	7–14 October
🏆 Winners annnounced:	by 17 October

Course Dates: The MEC courses awarded through the Eco-Warrior Challenge 2025 ***must*** take place during one of the five listed time slots. These dates are not flexible and the MEC cannot be carried over to 2026.

Please check your school calendar before submitting your class application materials. You will be able to indicate which set of dates your class would be able to travel to CCMI should their application be selected for the scholarship.

MEC Dates:

Option 1:	12-14 November, 2025
Option 2:	18-20 November, 2025
Option 3:	26-28 November, 2025
Option 4:	2-4 December, 2025
Option 5:	8-10 December, 2025

Communications: *All submitted entries and their content may be published and shared publicly on platforms including, but not limited to, CCMI's social media accounts, CCMI's website, and press releases to local media outlets.*

For full programme information and the fillable PDF application:
https://reefresearch.org/our-work/education/school-trips/

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