

Letter from Pelican Island Audubon

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We appreciate the May 27 article "Indian River Community Foundation Awards \$300,000 to local nonprofits," picturing the Pelican Island Audubon and the Florida Outdoor Center receiving a micro-grant of \$5,000.

Pelican Island Audubon has joined forces with Florida Outdoor Center to award at least 35 scholarships to young students, ages 8 and older, to take part in one-week-long summer camps, building on the success of previous summers' camping programs and expanding their reach to students in Title 1 schools in the South County area.

The Pelican Island Audubon collaboratively-designed lagoon science education program, led by former Principal Bonnie Swanson, is making good use of its new Audubon House on Oslo Road to manage this exciting outdoor program for youngsters.

These two organizations are reaching out to schools and youth organizations in the South County to encourage parents and students to apply for the scholarships.

Normal weekly fees for students is \$195; with a scholarship students can reduce this weekly expense to as low as \$50.

So please, spread the word, encourage your young students to take an interest in getting outdoors for a week in June, July or August to kayak, learn about the lagoon and its wildlife and master outdoor camping skills.

Kristen and Mike Beck of Florida Outdoor have done a superb job for several years in offering their program out of Riverview Park in Sebastian. To date some 600 students have taken part.

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