

## Our Achievements

We have educated over 60,000 young people about the simple actions they can take to care for our Earth.

We have offered sea turtle release programs.

We have received the Broward County Special Achievement ***Emerald Award*** for our community contributions

**Together with South Florida young people we have:**

- Created butterfly gardens and outdoor hammock learning centers
- Cleaned beaches and waterways
- Planted thousands of trees
- Raised and planted mangroves
- Planted thousands of sea oats

## Our Sponsors

All People's Choice Pressure Cleaning  
AutoNation  
Best Buy  
Broward Soil and Water Management District  
The Community Foundation of Broward  
The Community Foundation of California  
A.D. Henderson Foundation  
Home Depot  
The Edith and Curtis Munson Foundation  
Office Depot  
The South Florida Water Management District  
The Sun-Sentinel Children's Fund  
USDA & Florida Division of Forestry  
Wal-Mart  
Whole Foods

## Ways You Can Help

- Join our weekend community Eco-Action events
- Share your expertise ~ become an Eco-Presenter Volunteer
- Partner with us at a local schools to create an action project
- Call us with *your* ideas!
- Make a tax-deductible donation




**1350 East Sunrise Blvd.  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304**

Tel.: **954-524-0366**

Website: [www.kidsecologycorps.org](http://www.kidsecologycorps.org)

Email: [kec@kidsecologycorps.org](mailto:kec@kidsecologycorps.org)

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**Inspiring young people  
to make environmental  
action part of their  
everyday lives and  
in the lives of those  
around them**

[www.kidsecologycorps.org](http://www.kidsecologycorps.org)

**Tel: 954-524-0366**

The Kids Ecology Corps, Partners in Action, Inc.  
is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization

## What We Do

### We educate

Through interactive programs, we explore current environmental issues and teach young people to care for the world around them.

### We promote action

Through "Eco-Action Projects" young people become involved and learn through experience while making a positive environmental impact.

### We encourage leadership

Young people become leaders and environmental stewards, and influence others to do the same. Programs are designed to inspire young people to become involved in their communities.

### We involve the community

We train volunteers in our community to become Eco-Presenters. We provide them the opportunity to share their passion and knowledge about the environment and engage youth in schools, parks, and similar locations throughout South Florida.

## Why We Are Unique

We meet young people face to face showing them how they can make a difference.

We focus on young people while their habits and world perceptions are forming.

We design programs to be interactive and stimulating, challenging young people to become critical thinkers.

We offer presentations about a variety of environmental topics including those specific to Florida.

We create our programs for all grades from pre-K through High School

We serve as a resource and support teachers and community groups.

We welcome program ideas and new community partnerships.

We create our programs to meet Florida Sunshine State Standards.

## Our Programs

**Wild Things Around Us** ~ offers music, props and a video presentation to help young people learn about South Florida animals and how to protect their habitats.

**Wonderful Water** ~ includes fun, hands-on experiments plus a fact-filled presentation about the importance of water and ways to conserve it.

**Oceans Blue: Mystery of the Reef** ~ includes a play where young people act as marine animals while they learn how actions on land impact the health of our oceans.

**Nature's Way of Recycling** ~ is all about garbage... where it comes from, where it goes and ways to recycle and reduce it. While participating in a game, young people learn the basics about our natural resources.

**Kids Care about Our Trees** ~ encourages young people to understand the importance of trees, how they can be affected by hurricanes, and the differences between native, exotic and invasive plants.

**Keep It Cool** ~ educates young people about climate change, through music, art, video and computer games. Kids perform a simple audit of their homes and behaviors that affect energy consumption and identify new actions to reduce their carbon footprint.



**Kristin D. Jacobs**

Commissioner – District 2

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Monday, April 24, 2006

Ms. Emily Nell Lagerquist  
The Kid's Ecology Corps  
1350 East Sunrise Blvd.  
Fort Lauderdale FL 33304

Dear Ms. Lagerquist: *Emily*

Congratulations to everyone at The Kid's Ecology Corps as the organization is presented with the 2005 Emerald Award in the Special Achievement Category.

This Award recognizes and honors the hard work of The Kid's Ecology Corps' staff and students. The commitment, energy and financial resources necessary for this level of environmental stewardship are not easy to achieve, but make a difference every day in the quality of life within our community.

I applaud your organization's ability to inspire students to become involved in protecting and preserving our precious natural resources and congratulate your entire team for their continued educational efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristin".

Kristin D. Jacobs  
Commissioner - District 2

KDJ/lk

*You do us all proud!*



# The Kids Ecology Corps.

— La Organización Kids Ecology Corps lleva a estudiantes de North Fork Elementary a su primera visita a los arrecifes corales de la Florida. —

El grupo local de jóvenes a favor del medio ambiente “Visita al Arrecife” combina educación de ciencia marítima y acción ecológica para estudiantes de escolar primaria. .

Por: Cristina Virsida

En días pasados, estudiantes de quinto grado procedentes de la escuela North Fork Elementary tuvieron la oportunidad de vivir su primer viaje de “snorkeling” de ciencia marítima en las costas de Pompano Beach como parte del nuevo programa educacional ecológico llamado “Una Visita al Arrecife,” llevado a

cabo por el grupo Kids Ecology Corps. El nuevo programa “Eco-Action” enfatiza la idea de proveer a los más jóvenes una enseñanza práctica y directa acerca de la importancia de nuestros arrecifes corales y los eminentes peligros a los cuales se enfrentan hoy en día debido a causas como el cambio climático, la contaminación y prácticas de marina mercante.

La organización comunitaria The Kids Ecology Corps (KEC) trabajó por dos años con North Fork Elementary, una escuela pública especializada en la ciencia marítima, para coordinar esta visita al arrecife y su consecuente enseñanza educacional sumergidos en el océano. El Director de North Fork Rendolyn Amaker y la Coordinadora de Ciencias Mary Lou Soucy estaban muy entusiasmadas con el hecho de proveer esta oportunidad a sus estudiantes ya previamente interesados en el medio ambiente. “Viendo esos arrecifes en persona tiene un impacto muy significativo en nuestros jóvenes, es una experiencia que no se puede replicar en el aula. Muchos de estos estudiantes estuvieron sorprendidos con el simple hecho de encontrarse en el océano, pocos de ellos habían nadado en nada más que una piscina. Esto fue una oportunidad única para todos nosotros,” comentó Mary Lou Soucy.

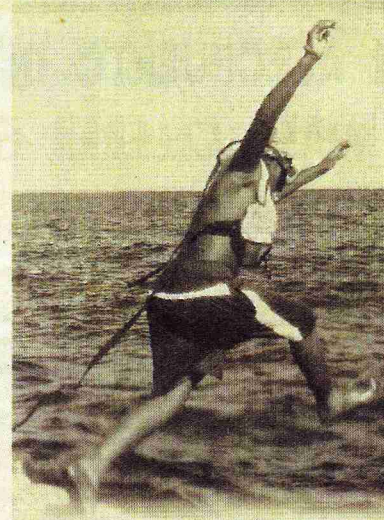
“Así que visteis como el arrecife coral era. ¿por que pensáis que tenía ese color?” preguntó la Directora Ejecutiva de KEC, Emily Lagerquist, a los estudiantes cuando su lancha llegó a la costa. Un número de jóvenes

respondieron conjuntamente. “Se está muriendo. . es por el calentamiento global. . los océanos se están calentando. . demasiado CO2 en el medio ambiente debido a nuestros automóviles.”

El programa comunitario a favor del medio ambiente fue organizado por The Kids Ecology Corps y consolidado por la Fundación Comunitaria de Broward y La Fundación A.D. Henderson. Recientemente la Fundación Comunitaria de Broward donó los \$10,000 a la organización The Kids Ecology Corps para realizar la visita al arrecife y poder continuar el programa educacional de KEC, “Keep it Cool: Kids Care About Our Oceans.”

Debido al éxito del programa, recientemente la Fundación Curtis y Edith Munson decidieron otorgar un subsidio a The Kids Ecology Corps con el propósito de continuar su programa “Una Visita al Arrecife” y sus componentes educacionales de “Keep it Cool.” Los instructores fueron puestos a disposición por “Funky Fish Scuba y Snorkeling Camp”. “Funky Fish” ofrece guías de “snorkeling”, eventos y viajes para niños y adultos. Pueden ser contactados al Teléfono: (954) 712-9900 o en la página “Web”: <http://www.funkyfishkidsday.com>

The Kids Ecology Corps es una organización 501 (c) (3) sin fines lucrativos cuya misión es inspirar a los más jóvenes a involucrarse diariamente en aspectos ecológicos y consecuentemente que estos involucren a los seres alrededor de ellos. KEC ha logrado el interés de más de 58,000 jóvenes desde pre-k por high school, ofreciendo participaciones prácticas y programas Eco Action que logran educar a los niños y a los jóvenes acerca de: mantener nuestros océanos limpios; la importancia de los árboles; el significado que replantar nuestras costas tienen en la conservación de las playas; conservación de agua; prevención de contaminación; cambios climáticos y conservación energética; y la protección de nuestros hábitats naturales. Visite la página “Web”: <http://www.kidsecologycorps.org> o mediante el número de Teléfono: (954) 524-0366 para ofrecerse como voluntario o para coordinar una cita educacional en su escuela.





October 29, 2007

A Marketing Publication of the Sun-Sentinel Company

*Good news. Great works. Community Spirit.*

## Kids Ecology Corps, Tri-Rail partner with 'Kids Go Green' Contest



Marfin and Lara at TriRail

Tri-Rail and local nonprofit environmentally-focused youth organization The Kids Ecology Corps have recently partnered to educate South Florida's youth about what they can do to help the environment and cut down on greenhouse gases by sponsoring the "Kids Go Green" poster contest, open to grades 6 through 8 in all three counties. Three winners will be selected to each win \$250, a family day at Billie Swamp Safari and more.

Children are invited to design a poster that shows the benefits of using public transportation and its immediate "Green" effect on their environment. Tri Rail and The Kids Ecology Corps strive to educate youth and their families about the significant environmental benefits of switching to public transit. According to the EPA, using the Tri Rail is at the top of the list of ways households can become "Greener" and slow down climate change.

"Choosing to commute by train instead of using our cars is a great way for families to lead by example and teach our youth about how they can help save the Earth, one person at a time," says Emily Lagerquist, Executive Director of The Kids Ecology Corps. "One less car on the road in a single household

means twenty less pounds of carbon emissions a day. Imagine what an impact that would have. That adds up to 5,000 less pounds of deadly gases in our atmosphere yearly, and the environmental benefits are immediate."

Tri-Rail's multifaceted "Go Green" campaign began on October 1, 2007, challenging consumers to help the environment and save money by registering for the EDP. "We are excited that we have taken this initiative to another level, engaging environmentally aware partners, and participating in programs that truly exemplify our support of bettering the environment," says Tri-Rail's Director of Marketing Bonnie Arnold.

The deadline for entries to the "Kids Go Green" poster contest is December 7. Visit [www.kidsecologycorps.org](http://www.kidsecologycorps.org) for contest rules. Posters should be sent to The Kids Ecology Corps office at 1350 E. Sunrise Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, FL, 33304.

The Kids Ecology Corps is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to inspire young people to make environmental action part of their everyday lives and in the lives of those around them. For more information, visit [www.kidsecologycorps.org](http://www.kidsecologycorps.org) or e-mail [kec@kidsecologycorps.org](mailto:kec@kidsecologycorps.org). ■



# The Kids Ecology Corps

Inspiring young people to make environmental action part of their every day lives and in the lives of those around them

a program of Partners in Action, Inc.

Fall 2007 Newsletter

## The Kids Ecology Corps

1350 East Sunrise Blvd.  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304  
Phone: (954) 524-0366

[www.kidsecologycorps.org](http://www.kidsecologycorps.org)

### KEC Welcomes New Staff Members

Four new staff members joined the ranks of KEC in May. They are Lee Gottlieb, Toby Lopez, Cristina Virsida and Maria Marchegiani.

**Lee Gottlieb** joins us as Eco-Action Program Manager.

**Toby K. Lopez** joins us as Volunteer and Community Coordinator.

**Maria Marchegiani** joins us as the new Program Manager for "Kids Care About Trees".

**Cristina Virsida** joins us as Development and Media Coordinator.

They join the current staff of Emily Lagerquist as Executive Director and Debra Miller as Presenter Program Manager.

Emily Lagerquist said of her newest staff members "I am thrilled that we were able to find individuals with such diverse talent and capabilities. Each brings a unique perspective to our organization. We look forward to their contribution in helping KEC reach even more young people. They will facilitate youth to become aware and knowledgeable of environmental issues and develop their leadership skills to become activists in caring for our world" 🌱

## Greetings from The Kids Ecology Corps

From the Desk of:

*Emily Nell Lagerquist, Executive Director*

Greeting from The Kids Ecology Corps!

We are so excited about all of the eco-action events we have been sponsoring over the past few months. It all started in June shortly after we brought on four new staff members. As a result of their passion, talent and collaborative energy, The Kids Ecology Corps is involving even more members of the community.

We have highlighted in this edition some of our recent major events such as our visit to

The Bonnet House, the massive sea oat planting along the South Florida coast and snorkeling on the reef - plus the premier of our first short film in the upcoming Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival on November 3rd.

KEC hosted three of its own Sea Turtle Release Programs for eighty-five members of the community with the support of our volunteer Eco-Presenter Danielle Rudisill Zabarsky who in the summer rises before dawn to patrol the beaches for the Broward County Sea Turtle Conservation Program.

Our recent partnership with Tri-Rail features a "Kids Go Green" poster contest, aimed at educating youth and their families about the significant environmental benefits of switching to

public transportation. Middle school students in all three counties are invited to participate. Check out our website for contest rules.

Thank you to all of our hard-working and dedicated volunteers.

We hope to see you at our next Eco-Action Project! 🌱



Nicole Sklar (front) and Maria Marchegiani (back)

## KEC hits the Big Screen with its first short film

Last month, the Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival chose KEC's first short film for their prestigious movie lineup. The 37 day-long film fest is in its 22nd year and was recently voted Florida's top rated film fest.

The short film, *Plant Trees: Sturdy for the Birdies* will have its premier on the big screen Saturday, November 3rd at 10am.

Funding for the film came from a generous grant by the USDA Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program administered

by the Florida Division of Forestry.

Our thanks go out to Director Mike Rosinski and Producer/Director John Lemmon for their excellent work and generous in-kind contribution and to NETV (Northeast High School Television) students and teacher Sandy Melillo for their inspiration and collaboration.

We invite everyone to join us on Saturday, November 3rd at 10:00 am at Cinema Paradiso, 503 SE 6th Street in Downtown Fort Lauderdale.

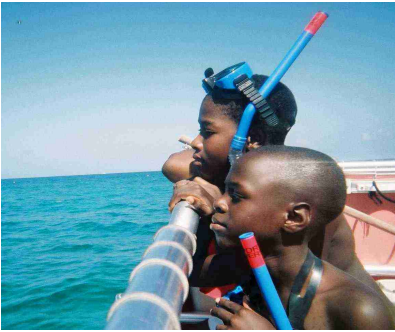
Admission is **FREE**. We also encourage you to stay for the feature film, *Legend of Sasquatch*.

Come out, celebrate with KEC and **vote** for your favorite short film. 🌱





## First Visit to the Reef Program makes a big splash with Campers



Justin S and Michael M prepare to dive in!

Carter Park Community Summer Campers got to experience their very first “Visit to the Reef” snorkeling trip off the shores of Pompano Beach this August. For half of the 19 kids ranging in ages from nine to eleven, this was

their first time visiting the beach and swimming in the ocean. For all, this was their very first boat trip and first time learning to use a snorkel mask and fins with the instruction of the Funky Fish diving staff.

Before the trip, kids participated in our “Oceans Blue” interactive educational skit to learn about the reef and how they can help reduce global climate change.

The experience of learning to snorkel, traveling three miles off the coast on a glass bottom boat

and swimming with colorful tropical fish had a great impact on these new divers.

“This was the best field trip ever!” said Darrin Mash, age 9.

David Deal, Recreation Program Coordinator for The City of Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Department, joined the kids on their maiden voyage. “This was a great opportunity for the kids to learn about the different types of life that live in the ocean!

We want to thank The Kids Ecology Corps for allowing the kids to go explore. They can’t wait to do this again!”

This environmental outreach program was funded in part by the Community Foundation of Broward and The A.D. Henderson Foundation which provided grants to continue KEC’s educational program “Keep It Cool: Kids Care About Our Oceans” and for the Visit to the Reef.

Due to the success of this new program, The Curtis and Edith Munson Foundation just funded a matching grant with the goal of continuing KEC’s “Visit to the Reef” program and its “Keep It Cool” educational components. 🌍

## KEC helps protect Florida’s coasts against future erosion

Beginning in late July and running through September, hundreds of volunteers armed with hand trowels and sunscreen returned again and again to Hallandale Beach and Hollywood Beach to plant sea oats along the shore.

These hard working and dedicated volunteers planted over 150,000 sea oats, effectively constructing a stronger and better prepared coast against future storms and erosion.

Because of their extensive system of underground stems and roots, sea oats help reduce beach erosion by gathering and holding blowing sand thereby creating sand dunes which protect the shore

against rising waves.

The county-wide dune restoration and environmental education project was a joint partnership with KEC, Broward Soil and Water Conservation District (BSWD), the City of Hallandale Beach and John U. Lloyd State Park.

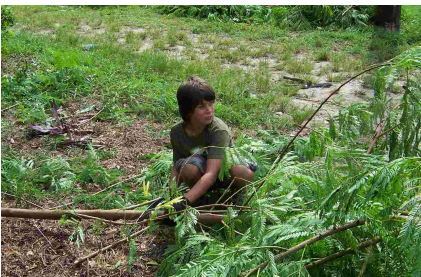
Some of the more than 150 volunteers included employees from Best Buy’s local offices, marine science students from Nova SE University and high school students from St. Thomas Aquinas, McArthur, American Heritage, Western, South Plantation and Stranahan High.

Many thanks to Carmelo Duesler and staff at John U. Lloyd Park, Gordon Dobbins, Russell Setti and Canute Malcolm of BSWD, the Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Hallandale.



Hundreds of volunteers enjoyed our “Sea Oats Sundays”

## Eco-kids help preserve a historic habitat at the Bonnet House



Vance B. chopping lead trees

In July, KEC volunteers came out to the historic Bonnet House, restored part of the grounds and received a fascinating tour of the museum and surroundings. On the top of the hit list was the exotic invasive *leucaena leucocephala* or lead tree, which was quickly

taking over the native plants and trees.

The main goal of this project was to restore and preserve the natural ecological habitat of Bonnet House - home to frogs, turtles, fish, butterflies, manatees, cranes, foxes, swans and the Great Blue Heron.

The Bonnet House, owned by the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, is a designated Ft. Lauderdale Land-

The 35-acre property, located between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway, is one of the few remnants of what was once a coastal wilderness in Broward County. Florida State University has identified various endangered environments, plants and animals that exist on the property. Visit them at 900 North Birch Road, Fort Lauderdale or on the web at [www.bonnethouse.org](http://www.bonnethouse.org). 🌍



The Kids Ecology Corps  
www.kidsecologycorps.org

## And the “Woman of the Earth” Award goes to ...

Emily Lagerquist with Jean Michelle Garrigue, General Counsel of Groupe Yves Rocher Amérique due Nord in Montreal, Canada



This February, our Executive Director Emily Lagerquist was celebrated as an Internationally recognized environmental activist by winning the Yves Rocher Foundation’s “Women of the Earth” award.

Emily was one of three women in the entire U.S. honored by this prestigious award, which included a \$3,000 prize.

“I see it as a recognition of the work of our entire staff,” Emily Lagerquist said of the award.

Her winnings went directly towards funding a PBS television pilot aimed at

broadening KEC’s environmental and educational programs and highlighting the newly completed KEC film, *Plant Trees: Sturdy for the Birdies*.

The awards honored thirty-five women in eleven countries from North America and Europe for work that benefits the environment.

Winning the French award proved to Emily and the KEC staff the global importance of being environmentally active. “You don’t have to be an expert to help save the planet,” Emily Lagerquist said. 🌍

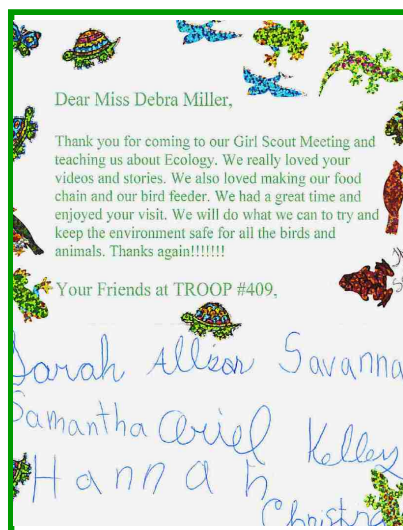
## Kids’ Korner

### Eco-Cool Things to Know:

- Coral reefs protect our shoreline from harsh weather, provide homes and food for 30% of all ocean fish and provides us medicines to fight cancer, asthma and other diseases!
- Even when a TV, radio, stereo or computer is turned off, it is using electricity! Unplug them or use a power strip cord to ensure no “stand-by” power is being used.
- Invasive species are the second leading cause of loss of wildlife. You can do your part by recognizing and removing invasive plants when they’re small in your neighborhood.

Visit [www.livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu) for more info.

## From the Mail Box:



Congratulations on completing your third grant from the USDA’s Forest Service’s Urban and Community Forestry Program.

It is always a pleasure to read about individuals in our community who are willing to dedicate themselves to benefit those who need it most.

Your organization’s selfless efforts on behalf of children in Broward County’s community are greatly appreciated and admired.

I am thankful that organizations like yours may serve as an example to others.

*Congressman Ron Klein*

## Forestry grant benefits local schools

The Kids Ecology Corps recently completed its third grant from the USDA Forest Service’s Urban and Community Forestry Program administered by the Florida Division of Forestry. These grants helped to fund the Project Manager position for the eco-educational program, *Kids Care about Our Trees*.

From 2004 - 2007, the grants awarded to KEC totaled \$65,000, enabling us to hire Nici Daw, an exceptional volunteer and environmental activist.

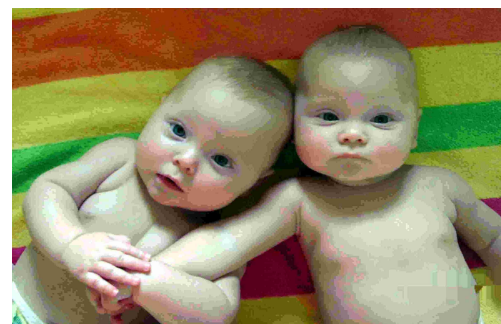
Over the course of three years, Nici was instrumental in developing the KEC program *Kids Care about Our*

*Trees* which included learning modules tailored for K-12th grades as well as in-depth learning manuals for teachers.

The outdoor learning centers at Cypress Bay High School in Weston and the north campus of Broward Community College involved more than 140 elementary, high school and college students in hands-on planting.

In 40 schools and summer programs in Broward and Palm Beach Counties, volunteers and KEC staff have educated over 5,000 young people about urban forestry and the benefits of native trees.

Nici is currently on a leave of absence taking care of KEC’s newest members,



**twins Ali and Lia (above).** We look forward to a time when she and the girls will be able to be more active with The Kids Ecology Corps.

In the meantime, we are delighted to welcome Maria Marchegiani, a Broward County Master Gardener and dedicated activist, as the new *Kids Care About Our Trees* Project Manager. **Welcome Maria!** 🌍





## The Kids Ecology Corps

a program of Partners in Action, Inc.

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1350 East Sunrise Blvd, Suite 106  
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### About Us

The Kids Ecology Corps is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization whose mission is to inspire young people to make Environmental Action part of their everyday lives and in the lives of those around them.

As of September 2007, with a small staff and dedicated volunteer Eco Presenters, KEC has reached over 58,000 young people from pre-k through high school. We present engaging stories and information about current environmental topics such as: global climate change, water conservation, pollution prevention, urban forestation and the condition of our oceans. No other organization in Southeast Florida covers the broad spectrum of environmental issues we offer in face to face presentations with young people. Our programs are tailored to both class size and students' ages. These experiences are fun and compelling! Following are some examples of our live programs:

**Nature's Way of Recycling** – A stimulating game to learn the basics of reducing garbage and preserving our natural resources.

**Wild Things Around Us** – Kids learn about South Florida animals and how to protect their habitat.

**Oceans Blue: The Mystery of the Reef** – An interactive play that teaches young people how our actions on land impact the health of our oceans.

**Kids Care about Our Trees** – Kids learn about the importance of trees and the differences between native, exotic and invasive plants.

**Wonderful Water** – Fun, hands-on experiments plus a fact-filled presentation about the importance of water in our lives.

**Keep It Cool**—educates young people about climate change, recycling and sources of energy. Kids perform simple audits of their behaviors and surroundings that affect energy consumption.

We touch even more young people in the USA and around the world via our website [www.kidsecologycorps.org](http://www.kidsecologycorps.org). In fact, about 50% of those who access our website are Kids Ecology Corps members from countries in Europe, Asia, South America, Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific. ♻️

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