

The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center

a one-of-a-kind educational facility

The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center in Freeport, Florida, is a one-of-a-kind educational facility, developed by local conservationist, M.C. Davis. Named after Dr. Edward O. Wilson, two-time Pulitzer Prize Award Winner, Pellegrino University Professor Emeritus and Honorary Curator at Harvard University, the center embodies Dr. Wilson's life-long contributions to public education focused on the importance of conserving the world's biodiversity. "Biophilia", a word coined by Dr. Wilson, is the connections that human beings subconsciously seek with the rest of life. The Biophilia Center enhances student curriculums that nurture an understanding and appreciation for the importance of biodiversity, helps build a personal connection to the world around us, and instills a sense of responsibility to protect the environment.

Northwest Florida has long been recognized for its environmental wealth. It is an ecological "hot spot" that hosts an unusually high concentration of plants and animals.

Outside, students explore the nature trails to see first-hand several varieties of endangered flora and fauna that is part of the 48,000-acre Nokuse (pronounced "nō-gō-see") Plantation.

Inside the 28,500 square foot environmentally friendly facility, students explore the exhibit hall that has several dioramas, listen to informative

presentations and movies in the 160-seat theater. Participating schools also study in the multi-purpose classrooms and conduct hands-on experiments in the science laboratories. The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center is a collaboration of environmental and conservation created education to engage and educate students about the Florida Panhandle. It expertly marries nature and technology to offer intriguing and thought-provoking personal experiences with the environment. The exhibit hall explains key environmental components which are not readily seen outdoors. As a result, students leave the center with a deeper understanding and an appreciation of biodiversity, conservation, and preservation. Students also learn how they can affect the restoration of natural resources everyday.

"I know of no other place quite like this one that combines delightful exhibits inside showing the real thing, then immediately outside, just a few yards away, you're walking through it all yourself," said Dr. E. O. Wilson of the Biophilia Center. "That's the genius of this place."

In the first seven months of operation, the Biophilia taught over 4,000 students, averaging more than 140 students actively participating in our programs per school day.

For more information, visit their website at: www.eowilsoncenter.org



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