



## ***Proclamation***

Board of County Commissioners  
Manatee County, Florida

**WHEREAS**, Dana Pounds, who is a Marine Biologist and the director of Nature's Academy, a Manatee County 501c3 organization, and her instructors, provide environmental education classes to fifth grade Manatee County school children; and

**WHEREAS**, Nature's Academy has brought over 4,000 fifth grade school children in the last two years to Coquina Beach Bayside Park for the purpose of educating these students about the unique environment of barrier islands and the Gulf of Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, the enthusiasm, kindled interest, learned respect and hands-on education these students get in a very short time is truly remarkable; and

**WHEREAS**, their school teachers consistently talk about how these short but meaningful encounters bring their classroom lessons to life, and the pictures in the students' textbooks are no longer distant illustrations but photographs of sea life they have personally seen and touched; and

**WHEREAS**, from these moments of guided discovery, Nature's Academy team members segue into how people influence life in the sea and on shore. They speak of plastics and petroleum and the damage these products can do, and how conservation can mitigate that damage; and

**WHEREAS**, as a real life lesson these students then strike out on the beach and shoreline to pick up as much plastic, paper, and petroleum product as they can carry before leaving that day; and

**WHEREAS**, Dana Pounds was recently recognized by the Tampa Bay Lightning Foundation as one of the Community Heroes living and working here in Manatee County; and

**WHEREAS**, through Dana Pounds' leadership, skill, vision, and guidance, the staff of Natures Academy is practicing what is akin to the aged old tradition of putting a message in a mariner's bottle. A vessel carried on winds of inspiration, currents of hope and a tidal wave of care, not to other shores but to our own. Uncorked, the simple universal truth Dana and her staff float through these student vessels is, *"that by careful and continued conservation we can all help preserve our beautiful beaches for many more generations to come"*.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that April 20, 2013, shall be known, designated, and set aside as

### ***DANA POUNDS DAY***

in Manatee County, Florida.

**ADOPTED** with a quorum present and voting this 9th day of April 2013.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**


By:

  
Larry Bustle, Chairman

ATTEST:

**R. B. "Chips" Shore**  
Clerk of Circuit Court

By:

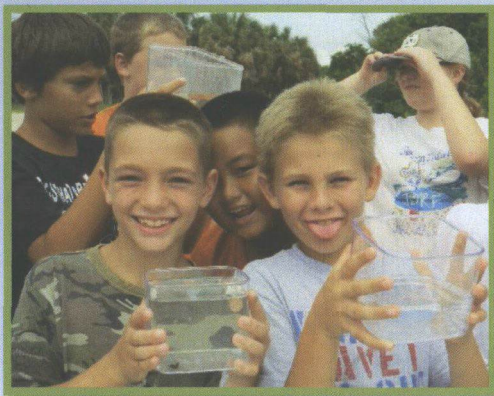
  
Deputy Clerk



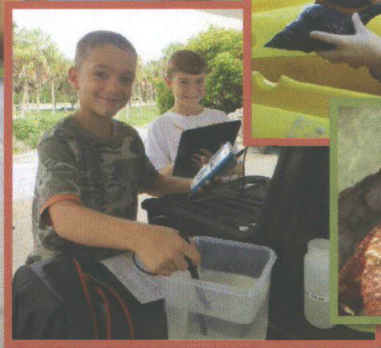
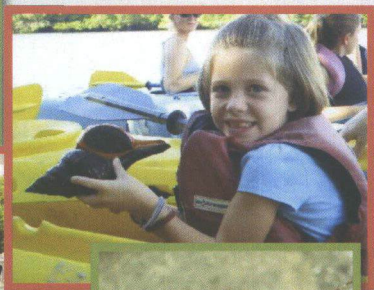
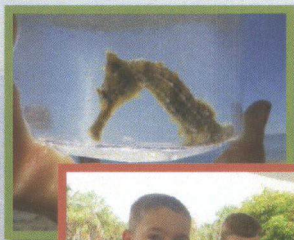


# Nature's Academy

Bringing the classroom outdoors...



92% of students exposed to outdoor educational programs academically outperform peers from traditional classroom programs.\*



At Nature's Academy, students are "citizen scientists," immersed in the natural learning environment

941.538.6829

[www.naturesacademy.org](http://www.naturesacademy.org)  
[info@naturesacademy.org](mailto:info@naturesacademy.org)



Dana Pounds  
Proclamation

Blumberg No. 5137

\*From the State Education and Environmental Roundtable (SEER)

*58% of Manatee County  
5<sup>th</sup> graders lack proficiency  
in science*

*Nature's Academy...*

*Provides inquiry-driven field trips  
at no cost to public schools*

*Improves science literacy-  
80% of our students demonstrate  
academic gains*



*Our goal:*

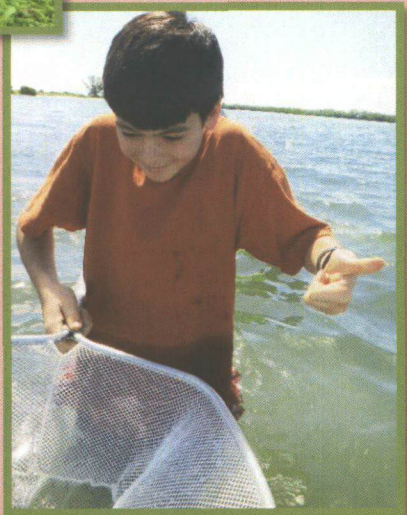
*Deliver annual  
field trips to all  
Manatee County  
fourth and fifth  
graders by  
2020.*

*How YOU Can  
Support:*

*\$25  
Sponsors a student*

*\$250  
Sponsors  
10 students*

*\$500  
Sponsors an entire  
class!*



*Donate  
Today!*



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



*Nature's Academy  
Bringing the classroom outdoors...*

April 9, 2013 - Regular Meeting  
Agenda Item #11

Subject

Dana Pounds Day

Briefings

None

APPROVED In Open Session Manatee County Board of County Commissioners
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Contact and/or Presenter Information

Board of County Commissioners

Action Requested

Adoption of Proclamation designating April 20, 2013, as "Dana Pounds Day" in Manatee County, Florida.

Enabling/Regulating Authority

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Background Discussion

- Dana Pounds is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Nature's Academy, Inc., which is a non-profit environmental educational company based in Manatee County.
- The staff of Nature's Academy has over a decade of experience teaching environmental conservation in Florida. Their programs aim to educate individuals about the complexity of Earth's ecosystems and inspire them to become better stewards of our limited resources.
- They provide hands-on programs which immerse participants in the learning environment. Experiential learning encourages participants to become the captain of their own educational experience. Topics include ecology, marine science, biology, botany, physics, chemistry and astronomy. Classes end their programs with a beach clean up and weigh their bags of refuse to quantify their results.
- They have taught, to date, over 4,000 Manatee County 5th graders about the special environmental challenges presented to barrier islands on the west coast of Florida through programs presented at Coquina Beach Bayside Park in partnership with the County's beach concessionaire, United Park Services, Manatee County Schools, and Manatee County Government, among others.
- Local teachers find this particular program enriches and compliments their classroom lesson plans and effectively provides knowledge of the environment to their students in a way that they could not without Dana and her excellent staff.
- Dana Pounds has been recognized by the Tampa Bay Lightning as a Community Hero and presented her with a check for \$50,000 to be spent on environmental programming.

County Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Explanation of Other

Reviewing Attorney

N/A

Instructions to Board Records

Please return a copy of the approved agenda to Cynthia Gray of the Parks and Recreation Department ([cynthia.gray@mymanatee.org](mailto:cynthia.gray@mymanatee.org)).

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name

N/A

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs

N/A

Attachment: [Dana Pounds Day - 04.09.13.pdf](#)