



Field School Prospectus



Overview

The Lemur Conservation Foundation is an AZA-certified institution which focuses on research, conservation, art, and education. We offer facilities ideal for gaining hands-on experience studying non-human primates in field schools or field training courses. Faculty from across the nation have taught classes in residence at our site to develop skills in behavioral ecology, plant identification, ranging studies, husbandry and veterinary care, art, photography, and communication, among other topics. Our unique setting and lemur population offer research and teaching possibilities available nowhere else. Instructors may tailor their courses to their students and teaching agendas knowing that an LCF field school will provide their students with a unique and effective learning experience.

Reserve Location

We are situated on ~130 acres of rural backcountry near Myakka City, off Highway 70 between Arcadia and Bradenton, Florida. Our location has few nearby shopping opportunities. In Myakka City, there is a gas station/convenience store, Dollar General, farm supply store, post office, and two restaurants with irregular hours. The nearest grocery store is located in Lakewood Ranch, about a half hour drive away on Highway 70. There is a Walmart about 30 miles east in Arcadia. Instructors should bring food, first aid essentials and other necessary supplies with them.



Transportation

Instructors should arrange all travel to and from the reserve, including air and ground transportation for their group. We do not provide transportation. If flying, we suggest Sarasota or Tampa airports, but there are other options for both international and domestic travel.

By Air

[34 miles](#): Sarasota, FL (SRQ / KSRQ) [Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport](#)

[79 miles](#): Tampa, FL (TPA / KTPA) [Tampa International Airport](#)

[86 miles](#): Fort Myers, FL (RSW / KRSW) [Southwest Florida International Airport](#)

[112 miles](#): Orlando, FL (MCO / KMCO) [Orlando International Airport](#)

By Car

Detailed driving directions will be provided once the field school is scheduled. Our private reserve is located near Myakka City, and travel to it includes two miles of dirt road.

What We Offer

The Lemurs

We are home to more than 50 individual lemurs representing five different species. Our lemurs are part of managed conservation breeding programs coordinated by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

Some of our lemurs free range in multi-acre forest habitats, providing an ideal opportunity for students to gain experience collecting observational data under natural conditions. We also maintain groups of lemurs in more traditional housing. Lemurs in this style of housing are useful for learning animal identification skills, enrichment design, scientific illustration, and animal husbandry practices.



The Simons-Sussman House is available for visiting researchers and field school participants. The house has four bedrooms and two full baths in 1,300 square feet.



Each of the four bedrooms has three beds: a set of bunk beds and a single twin bed. For groups larger than 12 people, there is also a couch and a futon in the common area. The common area opens into the eating and cooking space. Amenities at the house include:

- Bed linens and pillows
- Fully-equipped kitchen with 20-cubic foot refrigerator, stove, microwave, and dishwasher
- Basic pots, pans, dishes and silverware for 12
- Water cooler
- Wi-Fi
- Washer and dryer
- Adjacent parking area

For larger groups, or for those wishing to have a more rustic field camp experience, tent camping is an option. Tent camping groups have access to the Simons-Sussman

House's cooking and bathroom facilities. Limited camping gear is available. If interested, please contact us for more details.

Our Library - The Mianatra Center for Lemur Studies

The Mianatra Center serves as both LCF's office and library; it houses a collection of more than 400 publications about lemurs and other primates, as well as books about Madagascar and Florida native plants and wildlife.



These resources are available for students to use during field schools. The center is also home to our lemur art collection. The large central area is furnished with tables and chairs designed to accommodate lectures, learning modules, independent research, and

other indoor aspects of field schools. A projector and screen are available for use upon request. A small kitchen, with a refrigerator and stove, is part of the library, making it an ideal option for lunches or breaks between activities.

Learning Modules

LCF staff have developed a number of learning modules which can be integrated into existing syllabi. Modules typically take between one and two hours to complete and are led by LCF staff. Each module is an additional cost to the daily fee schedule. Available modules include:

- Radio telemetry
- Lemur identification
- Nutrition and daily diet preparation
- Physical examinations and anthropometry*



Learning modules must be scheduled at least a month in advance.

*The anthropometry module is only available if the field school overlaps with routine lemur physicals scheduled by our veterinarian.

How to Arrange a Field School

Field schools should be scheduled at least four months in advance of the anticipated start date. Scheduling is first-come, first-served. Times which coincide with spring and winter breaks of the academic year are most requested. Summer field schools are an option but the Florida heat, humidity and frequent afternoon rains during this time of year can create challenges.

Costs and Fees

Fees for lemur observations and learning modules are waived for one instructor and one teaching assistant. The Field School fee schedule is available upon request to interested instructors who contact LCF. Multiple forms of payment are accepted; a small (3%) charge is added to payments made by credit card to cover processing fees.

To schedule a field school, please email LCF at research@lemurreserve.org



Important Deadlines

- **4 months before start date** - Syllabus outlining planned field school scope of work and anticipated number of participants.
- **3 months before start date** - Syllabus submitted to the LCF IACUC for their approval.
- **2 months before start date** - Proof of your institution's IACUC approval of your field school*.
- **1 week before start date** - LCF Release forms signed by all field school participants and sent to LCF.
- **1 week before start date** - Proof of negative TB test from all field school participants sent to LCF.

* If your institution does not have nor require IACUC approval for your course, please send a written explanation to that effect with your syllabus.

