Protecting and preserving the crucial native ecosystems of coastal islands

**Overview:** Much of Florida’s distinctive character lies in the beauty of its coastline. The best of the coastal landscapes have been set aside for protection as aquatics preserves. This natural beauty had always been one of Florida’s major attractions for tourists and residents. Ironically, the very features that draw people to Florida are potentially endangered by the increased population pressures. Aquatics preserves protect the living waters of Florida to ensure that they will always be home for bird rookeries, fish nurseries, freshwater springs, salt marshes, sea grass meadows, and mangrove forests.

**Day-to-day:** Students have the chance to work with the removal of invasive plants, such as the Brazilian Red Pepper and Carrotwood, and to remove debris from spoil islands. Students also assist in trail maintenance and coastline clean-up.

**The Nitty-Gritty Details:** Students will be staying in KOA cabins with bunk beds. Meals are not provided by the sites, but the group will be given a small budget for groceries to make meals throughout the week. Students should expect to spend additional funds on some meals.

**SPECIFICATIONS**

**Location:** St. Petersburg, FL

**Price:** $150

**Trip Price includes:**
- Transportation
- Housing
- Program Fees
- Tools/supplies needed for service

**Transportation:** Participants will travel by a 50 person charter bus. Vans will be used throughout the week for local transportation.

**Housing:** Cabins

**Meals:** Meals not provided

**Social Justice Issue:**

**Physicality Level:** Medium

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