



For Immediate Release

Tropical Audubon Ambassador Program ramps up for Fall 2022 — “Solutions for South Florida’s Future” New interactive online format! Field Trips are back!

MIAMI, Fla. — South Floridians who are passionate about the natural world and interested in fostering “conservation through community” can become more engaged, educated and effective environmental advocates by attending the free 2022 *Tropical Audubon Ambassador Program* September 6 through November 15. The award-winning education series is designed to activate environmental ambassadors who want to beat the drum for South Florida’s unique and endangered ecosystems. This fall’s program will feature a new interactive online format and the return of field trips! [Register HERE!](#)

Participants will receive comprehensive advocacy training from environmental experts and will come away with an in-depth knowledge of our region’s cornerstone ecosystems: The Everglades, Biscayne Bay, and Pine Rocklands and Tropical Hardwood Hammocks. The end goal is to empower participants to activate their “Tropical Audubon Ambassador” education on behalf of South Florida’s wild places and the indigenous wildlife who inhabit them.

A NEW Zoom format will replace the webinar format, allowing ambassadors to better engage in discussion and Q&A during online sessions. Recorded versions of the meetings will also be available to participants.

Aspiring Tropical Audubon Ambassadors will join with a network of like-minded environmental advocates and participate in deep-dive Q&As with regional experts in their respective fields.

Subject matter will include:

- South Florida’s history of development and how to ensure a better future for our region.
- How development policy decisions are made, and their impact on zoning, water quality and transit.
- How development impacts birds, other wildlife, our human communities, and water resources. >>>

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- How Climate Change impacts South Florida at the local level as an intensifier of our region’s existing environmental challenges — from water quality to carbon sequestration.
- Which local conservation efforts are working well and how to enhance them.

Additional program benefits include a monthly virtual community meeting, a free field trip to a captivating local ecosystem, action alerts on critical conservation issues, an online toolbox of resources, leadership development opportunities, and access to a Facebook group.

The 2022 Tropical Audubon Ambassador series is open to anyone 18 and older, newcomers and past graduates.

To qualify for a Certificate of Program Completion, participants are required to complete the “Civics 101” and “Campaigns” sessions, and choose at least one, “track” of interest — Everglades, Biscayne Bay, and/or Pine Rocklands/Hardwood Hammocks. Each track is comprised of three in-depth virtual sessions.

Bonus Community Action virtual meetings about current issues will be open to all new and veteran ambassadors.

Program topics will be explored with TAS Education & Advocacy Director Stephanie Clements, who holds a Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Miami.

Additionally, the new fall program will be greatly enriched by experts from various fields of study.

Tropical Audubon Ambassador Program was named the 2019 “Outstanding Education Program” by Audubon Florida, “For extraordinary commitment to building a new generation of advocates and conservation leaders.” The 2022 program will build on that success and continue to engage community partners, among them Audubon Florida, Environmentally Endangered Lands Program, The Everglades Foundation, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Friends of the Everglades, Miami Foundation, and the National Parks Conservation Association.

Thanks to the support of our **Funding Partners** — The Everglades Foundation, Miami Foundation, National Parks Conservation Association — the Tropical Audubon Ambassador Program is free.

Session Dates & Topics (Live Zoom Meetings, Tuesdays* 6-7pm)

**Note November 10 is a Thursday*

Civics 101 September 6

Campaigns 101 September 13

Everglades September 20 & 27, October 4

Biscayne Bay October 11, 18 & 25

Pine Rocklands/Hardwood Hammocks November 1, 10* & 15 >>>

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Required Sessions for all Ambassadors:

Civics 101: Gain knowledge and skills to participate more fully in public discourse and advocacy campaigns. Learn about Miami-Dade County's government structure, as well as state and national institutions, and the roles, rights and responsibilities of community members.

Campaigns: Learn how an environmental advocacy campaign works in this introduction to campaign strategy. How to develop a strategy for change, how to involve your community, supporters and detractors, and the power of your personal story are among the topics to be covered. Meet and learn from current campaign strategists from various local organizations and coalitions.

Program Tracks (Ambassadors may choose up to 3 tracks)

Everglades: The history and science of the River of Grass, South Florida's most iconic and valuable ecosystem will be explored in this 3-part track. Learn about development issues, water management and the power struggle over the control of water resources. Gain knowledge about the birds and other wildlife who depend on the Everglades habitats. Discover why this ecosystem is so important ecologically, culturally and economically to Miami-Dade County. Learn about the current threats to conserving this vital natural resource and actions you can take.

Biscayne Bay: Learn about our local water-quality issues and how you can become a voice for Biscayne Bay in this 3-part track. Gain insights into local, state, and federal laws and regulations that affect Biscayne Bay. Discover the economic, cultural and ecological importance of this aquatic ecosystem, the multiple threats it faces and what can be done to address them, as well as opportunities to take advocacy actions to protect it.

Pine Rocklands/Hardwood Hammocks: Discover the complexity of the fire-dependent and globally imperiled Pine Rockland ecosystem and learn about Tropical Hardwood Hammocks in this 3-part track. Delve into the history of development along the Miami Rockridge that has led to <2 % of the county's original Pine Rocklands remaining outside of Everglades National Park. Gain insights into government, private and NGO programs striving to protect the remaining fragments of these habitats in urban Miami such as the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program. Attendees can engage with local experts and get involved with ongoing initiatives, including the Connect to Protect Network.

The Tropical Audubon Ambassador program is designed to complement the TAS Mission and methods: To conserve and restore South Florida ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats, with outreach centered around education and advocacy.

Registration Link: <https://support.tropicalaudubon.org/a/tropical-audubon-ambassador-program-2022>

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