



Volunteer Ranger Academy

What is it:

The Ranger Academy is an educational and training resource for volunteers interesting in working with the Calusa Waterkeeper in Southwest Florida. Rangers volunteer as citizen monitors of area waterways and will be trained to conduct surveys and report conditions and observations while on local waters. Volunteers set their own schedules and monitor in areas within seven zones of their choice. Participants should have access to area waters by boat or paddlecraft.

When and Where:

The fall academy will start October 14 at the Calusa Nature Center Iona House, 3450 Ortiz Avenue, Fort Myers from 9:00 to 10:00 AM. To complete the academy training, two additional workshops will be held, November 18 and December 2, at the same time and location. Water resource professionals will be recruited as guest speakers. If you miss a workshop you can make it up at the next scheduled Ranger Academy program in the spring of 2018. There is no cost to participate and no prior experience necessary.

Academy graduates become certified “Rangers” and receive the Calusa Waterkeeper Certificate of Training and a Calusa Waterkeeper hat.

Academy Curriculum

October 14

- Introduction
- View the Waterkeeper Alliance Video, an overview of what we do and why... The Mission
- Southwest Florida Waters from Lake Okeechobee to Charlotte Harbor – A Review and History
- An Introduction To the Calusa Waterkeeper Ranger Handbook
- Homework for the next session November 11.

November 18

- The ABCs of Water Quality
- Using GPS and mapping
- Homework for December 2

December 2

- Boating safety instruction and local boating rules
- Fish and Wildlife issues
- Monitoring basics
- Graduation!