



# Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

## Lionfish Education Exhibit Program

### Requirements & Application

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#### Overview and Requirements

Background: Since the rapid expansion of the lionfish population in 2009, the FWC has recognized this issue as a high priority and made significant strides in educating the public about the potential negative impacts of lionfish on human health and safety, the economy of Florida, and native natural resources. Effective control of the lionfish invasion is highly dependent on helping cooperative efforts by government agencies, partners, and stakeholders. This collaboration requires the public understand potential threats that can result from invasive species, and their role helping prevent or minimize these impacts.

Goal: To increase awareness and ensure consistent, accurate messaging about the lionfish invasion in Florida waters by supporting the creation of lionfish educational exhibits in public facilities around the State.

#### How to Qualify:

- All participants must be facilities open to the public and committed to encouraging public awareness of coastal issues in Florida. Funding awards will be given to facilities with existing lionfish educational exhibits or an interest in creating one. Participants are required to apply for the program (see attached Application Form).
- Exhibits must display FWC-approved information on lionfish and their invasion of Florida waters. Exhibits may contain additional information, but the messaging must not conflict with the agency's nonnative and invasive species initiatives.
- Exhibits must include the following: "Provided with funding from FWC" and include the FWC logo.
- Applicants are encouraged to visit FWC's lionfish information page (<http://myfwc.com/lionfish>).  
**FWC will not provide lionfish for exhibits.**

#### Support Funds:

Approved participants may be awarded up to \$2,499 to offset costs associated with the creation of lionfish educational exhibits. Approved vendors are only eligible to receive one award per fiscal year. Monetary awards are contingent upon valid submission of required reports and invoice(s) (See "Required Reporting and Invoicing" below).



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#### **Required lionfish facts that must be included in exhibit display**

**(Exhibits should include this information but can be arranged to fit your facility's themes)**

- Native to the Indo-Pacific, lionfish are a non-native, invasive species to Florida that have become established in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and throughout the Caribbean Sea. Introduced to Florida via the aquarium trade and first reported offshore of Dania Beach in 1985.
- Lionfish possess 18 venomous, grooved spines, which contain a neuromuscular toxin that can cause pain, swelling, redness, tingling, and numbness. There have been no reported deaths from a lionfish sting. Treat stings by immersing the wound in hot (not scalding) water and seek medical attention, if necessary.
- The flesh of lionfish does not contain venom or poison. Several Florida restaurants, seafood markets, and grocery stores are now serving commercially harvested lionfish.
- Lionfish are found in a variety of habitats including artificial and natural reefs, estuaries, mangroves, and seagrass beds. They can inhabit waters as deep as 1,000 feet, tolerate salinity as low as 4 ppt (ocean average is 35 ppt), and temperatures as low as 52° Fahrenheit.



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#### Application Form

A. Payment Information: To be paid by the FWC, the organization must be a registered vendor in the state of Florida purchasing system with a valid W-9 on file. If you have already done so, proceed to Applicant Information, otherwise follow steps below:

1. Register as a vendor with the state of Florida at <https://vendor.myfloridamarketplace.com/>.
2. Complete a separate registration (from step #1) and upload an active W-9 at <https://flvendor.myfloridacfo.com/>. Note: It usually takes 3-5 days for system processing.

B. Applicant Information: Please submit the information and materials requested in Sections B and C to [Lionfish@MyFWC.com](mailto:Lionfish@MyFWC.com) no later than **March 29, 2019**.

<b>Vendor Name</b>	
<b>Vendor Address</b>	
<b>Contact Name</b>	
<b>Phone Number</b>	
<b>Email Address</b>	

☐ Organization is registered with <https://vendor.myfloridamarketplace.com/>.

☐ Valid W-9 is on file with <https://flvendor.myfloridacfo.com/>.

1. How many annual visitors at your facility? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Describe how the proposed exhibit will increase awareness of the lionfish invasion (Use additional paper, if necessary):

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C. Materials Required for Submission with Application Form: In addition to the application form above, applicants must submit by email the following documentation for proposed exhibit displays:

1. Blueprint of proposed exhibit or photos of existing exhibit(s) (if any)
2. Copy of text and photos to be displayed in the exhibit
3. A proposed itemized budget for assistance fund spending (i.e. materials and/or services).

After the application is processed and approved, you will receive an approval email notification with a purchase order number. **Do not begin construction before receiving purchase order approval.**

**No payments for reimbursement will be approved without prior application approval and receipt of purchase order number.**

**D. Required Reporting and Invoicing**

1. Construction Report: All construction must be completed and a construction report must be submitted by **May 1, 2019**. The construction report must include an itemized list of materials and labor hours for the completed exhibit display, copies of any receipts for materials purchased, description of construction completed including information on displays, and photos of completed exhibit. Please submit construction reports to [Lionfish@MyFWC.com](mailto:Lionfish@MyFWC.com).

2. Final Invoice(s):

Invoice(s) MUST include:

- Dates of service
- Invoice number and date
- Vendor name and address
- FWC name and address (FWC Lionfish, 2590 Executive Center Circle East, Tallahassee, FL 32301)
- Purchase order number (included in notification email of approved purchase order)
- The sum total of expenditures

Final Invoice(s) must be received **no later than May 31, 2019** to be eligible for payment.

FWC reserves the right to deny payment if the participant fails to fulfill the requirements for payment processing or provide all required reporting and invoicing.

I acknowledge that I have read and agree to the requirements for this program.

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send application and required materials to [Lionfish@MyFWC.com](mailto:Lionfish@MyFWC.com).  
Please direct all questions regarding the program to Michael Kennison  
([Michael.Kennison@MyFWC.com](mailto:Michael.Kennison@MyFWC.com))**