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**HAWKS CAY RESORT ADDS NEW “EVERGLADES LITERACY” CURRICULUM
TO ITS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM**

*The Florida Keys resort partnered with the Everglades Foundation
to increase awareness of the Everglades ecosystem*

DUCK KEY, Fla. – June 19, 2017 – [Hawks Cay Resort](#), a resort destination in the Florida Keys, has partnered with The Everglades Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to leading efforts to restore and protect Florida’s Everglades ecosystem, to enhance the resort’s environmental education program with an Everglades Literacy curriculum.

Introduced in May of 2015, the Camp Hawk Environmental Education program was created by a teacher based on Florida Standards and Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for children ages 5 to 12, using the resort’s natural surroundings and access to wildlife as the framework for the curriculum. The addition of the Everglades Literacy curriculum brings a critically important element of the Florida ecosystem to the resort’s program.

“With the Florida Bay, which is fed by the Everglades, in our backyard, it’s important for our guests, especially the young ones, to understand the importance of the Everglades ecosystem to the overall health of South Florida,” said Sheldon Suga, VP Managing Director for Hawks Cay Resort. “The Everglades Literacy curriculum is already established in 16 Florida school districts, and it fits seamlessly into our current program. It’s adding a strong science-based component to our overall program that is engaging and fun for the kids.”

The Everglades Literacy Conceptual Framework and Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit were developed by scientists and educators and define what being “Everglades literate” means. These concepts will help our future generation of stewards make informed decisions about the Everglades, improve conservation efforts for the environment and understand the ecological and economic value of the Everglades ecosystem.

The Camp Hawk Environmental Education Program, which is divided into age appropriate grade levels, is offered daily at Coral Cay from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for \$60 and includes lunch. An afternoon adventure program is also available. For more information, please visit www.hawkscay.com.

About The Everglades Foundation

The Everglades Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to leading efforts to restore and protect the greater Everglades ecosystem. Since its founding in 1993 by a group of local outdoor enthusiasts, the Foundation has become a respected and important advocate for the sustainability of one of the world's most unique ecosystems.

America's Everglades is prominent among our nation's environmental treasures. In addition to providing nearly eight million Floridians with clean and plentiful drinking water, the Everglades is home to no fewer than 77 threatened or endangered species of plant and animal life. From an economic point of view, nearly 400,000 jobs in tourism, recreation, boating, fishing, real estate and numerous other sectors depend upon – and benefit from – a healthy Everglades.

Funds raised by the Foundation are used for scientific research, advancing understanding of the Greater Everglades ecosystem and to provide grants to our conservation partners. Through environmental leadership, scientific expertise, education, and policy experience, the Everglades Foundation works to protect and restore America's Everglades. Learn more at www.evergladesfoundation.org.

About Hawks Cay Resort

A recipient of the prestigious AAA Four Diamond Award and a member of the Preferred Hotel Group Lifestyle Collection, Hawks Cay Resort is located on Duck Key in the Middle Florida Keys. Situated roughly halfway between Key Largo and Key West at mile marker 61, this 60-acre, tropical destination is easily accessible by car, boat or plane yet feels worlds away from everyday life.

Alongside the aquamarine water of the Atlantic Ocean, guests enjoy offshore, flats and backcountry fishing; diving; kayaking; kiteboarding and standup paddleboarding programs; Cliff Drysdale tennis program; Segway tours and the only resort-based Dolphin Connection program with complimentary daily viewings in the continental U.S. The resort boasts 177 guestrooms and 250 two- and three-bedroom villas, a full-service marina, six restaurants, saltwater lagoon, five swimming pools, kid and teen clubs and the award-winning Calm Waters Spa.

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