



# The Sharktastic Gazette

January through July 2025

www.sharks4kids.com



Students in The Bahamas share their excitement for sharks and the new activity books. This was one of many classrooms that received donated books thanks to a generous grant.

## BY THE NUMBERS - 12,460 Students Reached

**From January to June 2025:** Sharks4Kids facilitated **121 in-person visits** with presentations by volunteer educators across Florida (Monroe, Broward, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, Duval, Indian River), Illinois, and Texas, as well as The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos, and England. **110 virtual lessons** were also hosted and presented by Sharks4Kids through the first half of the year - reaching students in 27 U.S. States plus India, Canada, Scotland, England, Cyprus, Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, Ireland, and Australia. Sharks4Kids participated in **11 community outreach events**, including Rock the Ocean's Tortuga Music Festival, Shark Con, and MODS' Visit Lauderdale Science Festival, with a combined reach of 8,600 kids and adults.

## EXPANDING EDUCATION & RESOURCES

Sharks4Kids partnered with Sharktopia to design and publish two new and unique shark activity books: "Sharks of The Bahamas" and "Sharks and Rays of Turks and Caicos". **1,500 books** were donated to students in The Bahamas and **200 books** were donated to students in Turks and Caicos.

The **new Sharks4Kids website** was launched - making all educational resources easier to access for teachers, students, and parents worldwide.

### Additional donations included:

- **110** laminated shark posters
- **10** copies of Shark Superpowers
- **300** activity packets
- **1,000** coloring pages
- **100** 3D shark models
- **100** 4Ocean bracelets
- **Hundreds** of stickers



Caiti Rose [Sharktopia & Sharks4Kids Advisory Board Member] holding both activity books at this year's Shark Con in Tampa, Florida.

Dive into our website to access our ever-expanding library of resources. To purchase each activity book, please swim over to: [www.sharks4kids.com/books](http://www.sharks4kids.com/books)



Chelsea Crosby setup a FINtastic display and shared countless shark facts and activities with attendees at the Amelia Island Nature Fest.



Shark Con attendees had the opportunity to dive in The Bahamas (without getting wet) through our Virtual Reality experience.

## A Message From The Founder

*"The first half of 2025 has been marked by significant milestones, new resources, and powerful moments that have connected students worldwide with sharks and ocean conservation. Thanks to your support, Sharks4Kids has continued to inspire the next generation of shark advocates - reaching classrooms, libraries, and communities worldwide."*

Jillian Morris - Founder & President



## PROJECT LEMON AID - Shark Science in Action

This year, our flagship shark research and education initiative expanded its reach and impact. We caught, recorded, and tagged 26 sharks. Of those sharks, 6 acoustic tags were deployed. 31 students and teachers participated directly in shark tagging experiences. Sharks4Kids presented in 37 classrooms throughout Turks and Caicos, reaching 1,400 students and 76 teachers/principals. We produced and provided new resources to connect classroom learning with real-world shark conservation.

*All research done under permit from DECR.*



### FULL CIRCLE MOMENT

During a March field trip - the crew from Bimini Scuba Center were all former students who went through Sharks4Kids programs (school visits and field trips) in their youth. Now, they each have great careers working on the ocean and as ambassadors for sharks!



We partnered with the Girl Scouts of SE Florida for a JAWsome shark science and education day. The scouts tested their knowledge with shark trivia and heard about careers from our team. Creativity and shark crafts were included in the day along with our Virtual Reality shark dive!

Sara Casareto guided a scientific workup on a [stuffed animal] shark to immerse the Scouts in the process of shark tagging.



## ADVENTURES IN THE FIELD

Sharks4Kids had some incredible opportunities to share experiences with youth throughout the first half of the year. We hosted a five-day summer camp in Bimini, where 14 students (ages 11–17) explored ocean ecosystems and learned all about local wildlife, including nurse sharks, bull sharks, lemon sharks, and spotted dolphins. We partnered with the Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida for a hands-on STEM Shark Science Day. Then we sponsored a Shark Research Day with GHRI/NSU for a group of Girl Scouts. Sharks4Kids officially became a STEM partner for Monroe County Schools. We collaborated with Nicklaus Children’s Hospital on a shark and ocean awareness event. Sharks4Kids ran multiple VR library programs in Miami, Florida - bringing immersive shark experiences to local kids and families. We partnered with the National Wildlife Federation for a webinar series, engaging over 3,000 students. Sharks4Kids facilitated two field trips for high school students in Bimini, taking them to see stingrays and sharks in the wild - which also included a beach cleanup. Additionally, we hosted seven educators for our Educator Shark Science Workshop in June in partnership with the Field School.

## LOOKING AHEAD

As we enter the second half of 2025, we’re excited to launch additional VR programs, expand our Project Lemon Aid efforts, release new educational materials, including our next book, increase the number of students in the field, and continue building global connections for students. Together, we’re creating a wave of young shark advocates ready to protect our oceans.

We are making waves, and none of this would be possible without our fantastic team, donors, partners, and community of supporters. Thank you for helping us inspire and empower the next generation of shark advocates.