

To: Group Sponsor  
Re: R/V Ridley Floating Classroom

Please review and explain the following rules to all persons who will be participating in the R/V Ridley Floating Classroom experience. These rules are necessary to ensure the safety and cruise enjoyment of all persons on board the vessel. Safety procedures will be reviewed before departure. Should there be any questions, please call (956) 761-2644, or ask, upon arrival.

Thank you, R/V Ridley Captain & Crew  
**SAFETY RULES**

1. Maximum capacity of the R/V Ridley is 25 passengers (including group sponsors). **No exceptions.**
2. All persons 12 years of age or younger must wear a U.S.C.G. approved life jacket at all times.
3. Know where life jackets are located.
4. Board/disembark only when told to do so by staff.
5. **Wear closed-toed shoes with good traction (tennis shoes, etc.). NO SANDALS, NO EXCEPTIONS.**
6. Please do not go below deck or on upper deck without permission.
7. No running or horseplay.
8. Keep body extremities inside the boat proper while underway and while docking.
9. Beware of moving equipment, hoses and cables or ropes under tension, such as trawl wire or hydro-winch wires.
10. Do not sit on, climb on, or attempt to operate any equipment or rigging.
11. Wash hands thoroughly after handling any chemicals on board. Do not put chemicals into mouth, nose or eyes.
12. Do not handle specimens until shown how to do so properly. Some animals can sting, bite, pinch, cut or stab very effectively.
13. Follow all instructions of UTRGV personnel.
14. Persons with known severe allergies should inform UTRGV personnel in advance and not handle certain animals and chemicals.
15. **Drinking water will be provided. We encourage the use of refillable water bottles!**

I have explained the above rules to my child prior to boarding the R/V Ridley.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**\*Please give this signed form to the Captain or the Naturalist before boarding the R/V Ridley.**