



## Free Structured School Programs (SSP) Fieldtrip Logistics

### **Hours**

The Aquarium opens at 9:00 am and closes at 5:00 pm. You can arrive anytime the day of your trip starting at 9 am. We ask that you arrive at least 30 minutes before your program start time. This allows time for restroom breaks and group orientation before entering the building. Please tell Jaime what time you will be arriving if it is different than your reservation letter.

### **Parking**

Parking for buses is free and conveniently located behind the Aquarium Wharf Parking Garage in the bus lane. For directions go to <http://www.scaquarium.org/directions-parking> The drop off area for students and chaperones is using the sidewalk next to the bus lane. For the safety of your students, please do not use Concord St. for drop off. Please remind bus drivers to not idle for longer than 5 min (decreases air pollution).

### **Lunches**

Schools may eat lunch outside the Aquarium on Liberty Square. During inclement weather, the Aquarium recommends using the arrival area of the Parking Garage or the covered pavilions in front of the Fort Sumter Museum.

### **Chaperones and Extra Chaperone Payment**

For free Structured School Programs (SSP), the Aquarium allows one free parent/teacher aid chaperone per 6 students. Certified SC teachers always receive free admission and should not be included in the chaperone count. Chaperone count is for parents, teacher aids or any other non-teacher adults. For example, if you have 60 students in your group, you will receive 10 free chaperones **plus** the teachers with the group. If you want to bring more parent chaperones/teacher aids than the 1:6 ratio allows, the cost is \$15 each.

Payment arrangements for the extra chaperones must be made in one payment (check, credit) **one month** before your trip. Parents cannot pay individually at the \$15 group rate. If a parent pays individually the day of the trip, the cost will be \$24.95 each. Any credits left on an account after your field trip will be applied to future trips within 12 months. After 12 months, unused credits will be considered a donation to the Aquarium. Refunds are not available.

Your final chaperone number should be given to Jaime Thom at least 1 month before your trip. If extra chaperones show up the day of your trip and are not on the reservation, they will be expected to pay the full admission price (\$24.95 each). Please note that our payment policy is to ensure quick entry for groups as well as an easy experience for teachers the day of the trip. Please share this information with all teachers and chaperones in order to make things run smoothly for all. If you have any questions, please call Jaime Thom.

### **Members**

Membership privileges do not qualify as part of a group visit. Communicating this to your chaperones will often prevent unnecessary delays on the day of your visit.

### **Gift Shop**

The Aquarium has a gift shop and students are allowed into the shop in small groups with the supervision of a teacher or chaperone. We will ask the students to place their purchases on a side table during their classroom program in order to diminish distractions.

## **Workshops (SSP Teacher Workshops)**

All teachers must attend a 3 hour workshop session when winning a free Structured School Program (SSP). During the workshop, teachers learn about the Aquarium's online curriculum and get comfortable with the logistics of their upcoming fieldtrip. Teachers will receive 3 hours credit, which can be used toward continuing education, for attending and will be placed on the "Attended" list for the future (Teachers only have to attend once in their teaching career, the first year they win). Failure to complete a workshop will result in the cancellation of your program. If you have questions about the workshop requirement, contact Jaime Thom.

## **Fieldtrip Check List**

Before your visit:

- Confirm your trip by emailing Jaime Thom (you should already have done this step).
- Fill out the "School Programs Contract" as you are planning your trip and email or fax it back to Jaime Thom no later than 1 month before your trip.
  - On the "School Programs Contract", indicate your final number count for students, teachers and chaperones. This is due 1 month before your trip.
  - Arrange payment for extra parent/teacher aid chaperones no later than 1 month before your trip (may not apply).
- Prepare your students by completing the 3 recommended pre-visit activities (more info below under 'Online Curriculum').
- To get the most out of your visit, prepare something for your students when they are not participating in the classroom program. The Aquarium has scavenger hunts and answer keys available online if you would like to print them off before you come (more info below).
- Print bus directions for your travels (see above link under 'Parking').
- Bring along this phone number, (843) 577-FISH(3474), in case you are going to be late. Call and let us know so we can prepare. Thanks!!
- Email or call Jaime Thom if you have any questions. She is available to help make your experience educational, organized and fun!

During your visit

- When you arrive, unload in the bus lane and walk toward the Aquarium. Guest Services will greet you in front of the Aquarium for a brief orientation before leading you into the building for your classes.
- The most important thing is to be on time for your classroom program/s. Please pay close attention to when your program/s start (look on your reservation letter).
- When you are not in the classroom, you are more than welcome to enjoy the Aquarium on your self-guided tour. There are educational shows throughout the day. To see the show listing for the day you are coming, go to <http://www.scaquarium.org/calendar>

After your visit

- We would love to know how your trip went. If you would like, have your students send letters, pictures or drawings of your Aquarium experience to the address below.
- We also have a great post-visit activity online for each grade level (see below list).

## **Teacher Resources**

The Aquarium has several resources available online for teachers. For example:

- **Online Curriculum** – The Aquarium provides a standards-based, award winning online curriculum activities for teachers to use in their classroom. The activities provide a fun and engaging way to

connect your fieldtrip to lessons being taught in your classroom. The easy-to-use curriculum can be found at <http://curriculum.scaquarium.org/> Each activity will include listed lesson objectives, science standards addressed, background information, assessments, cross curricular extensions, printable color pictures, datasheets and a list of resources.

We highly recommend completing 3 of pre-visit activities before your fieldtrip to enhance student learning. Here are the 3 suggested pre-visit activities for each grade level:

**K-2 (Habitats)**

Living Things  
Water Wonders  
Habitats

**3-5 (Food Chains & Adaptations)**

Communities and Ecosystems  
Food Chains and Webs  
Adaptations

**5-8 (Watersheds)**

What are Watersheds?  
Topography  
Water Quality

**6-8 (Taxonomy)**

What is Taxonomy?  
Intro to Animal Taxonomy  
Classification Keys

**6-8 (Earth History)**

Geologic Time Scale  
Rock Cycles and Layers  
Fossil Gap

**High School (Human Impacts)**

A Sea Turtle's Life  
Sea Turtle Diets  
Sea Turtle Strandings

These are the activities recommended for after your visit:

**K-2 (Habitats)**

Helping Habitats

**3-5 (Food Chains & Adaptations)**

Helping Communities

**5-8 (Watersheds)**

Helping Watersheds

**6-8 (Taxonomy)**

Taxonomy Applications

**6-8 (Earth History)**

SC Rocks and Fossils

**High School (Human Impacts)**

South Carolina Aquarium Sea Turtles

- Scavenger Hunts – Keep your students actively involved throughout their self-guided tour by giving them grade specific scavenger hunts. Scavenger hunts and answer keys can be printed online at <http://scaquarium.org/field-trips/> (scroll to bottom)

**Structured School Program (SSP)**

For more information about your free standards-based structured school program please visit our website at <http://scaquarium.org/teachers> You will find program descriptions, standards addressed during your program and tips on preparing for your visit. If you have any other questions, be sure to contact Jaime Thom.

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