

South Carolina Aquarium Shadow Program 2017

Dear Parents,

Experience is always a great way to open a young person's eyes and spark new interests. To offer young adults a glimpse into the Aquarium world, the South Carolina Aquarium offers a shadow program for students in grades 6 to 12. In this program, your child will have the opportunity to observe some of the jobs that keep an Aquarium humming – like aquarist, educator, or mammal behaviorist. This program will allow students to see what happens in a day at the Aquarium and gain some insight into an area of work they might want to pursue. **The shadow program will be offered on three dates, September 5, 2016 (Labor Day), January 16, 2017 (MLK Jr. Day), and February 20, 2017 (President's Day).** These are days that most schools are not in session or commonly requested dates to shadow and therefore students would not miss school responsibilities.

To apply, students must:

- 1) Complete the form on the reverse side of this letter.
- 2) Write a 300-word essay describing why they are interested in participating and what they hope to gain from their time at the Aquarium.
- 3) Secure a letter of recommendation from an adult, non-family member, preferably a current teacher.
- 4) Submit the form, the essay, and the recommendation in an envelope to:

Ashley Zalabak
Education Department
South Carolina Aquarium
100 Aquarium Wharf
Charleston, SC 29401

Deadlines for submitting applications are August 29th for the September 5th Shadow Day, January 9th for the January 16th Shadow Day, and February 13th for the February 20th Shadow Day. We will accept the first fifteen applicants and contact parents by phone or email after the deadline to inform you whether your student has been accepted to participate in the program. At that time, we will provide specifics about the Shadow Day (time, activities, etc.) If you have questions, please contact me at azalabak@scaquarium.org or (843)-579-8531.

Sincerely,

Ashley Zalabak ☺

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Application Form

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

School: _____ District: _____ Grade: _____

Parent Name: _____ Parent Telephone: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Parent Email: _____

Are you a current member of the South Carolina Aquarium? ___YES ___NO