

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Introduction:

Educator: Welcome to the SCA and to today's show- Aquarium's GOT Talent. Thank you for joining us today to learn about this special exhibit, the GOT or Great Ocean Tank! My name is _____ and my cohost (diver) is _____. Cohost, can you share two reasons why this exhibit is so special??

Diver: This tank is very special and unique because it is the largest exhibit in the Aquarium, with roughly 550 animals representing about 40 different species (*numbers change over time, make sure to look at the board!*), all of which are native to SC's waters. But, secondly, it is also the deepest tank in North America! This allows us to have three different ecosystems within the tank: open-ocean, reef, and ocean floor. Each section has animals uniquely adapted to survive in their area, which means there are some pretty talented animals in the GOT.

Educator: And that's where you come in! As the audience, you will get to vote on which animal deserves to have the title of Aquarium's Most Talent's Animal. We have a lot of animals in there so instead of having to decide between all 550, we narrowed it down to 3 animals. I will describe three unique talents and will need three volunteers to help figure out which talent goes with which animal (can point to the animal pictures on box). But to keep you on your toes, there are four animals to choose from! So do I have a brave soul who wants to volunteer first??

****Note:** You can mix and match the talents, there are 4 written out but the show will only consist of 3 (so that the last one isn't a giveaway, also each show can have a little different line up depending on the educator)

Talent: Shark – SMELL

Educator: (*ask name of volunteer*) Ok, _____ are you ready?? Here is your clue: Although this animal does not have nostrils like we do, this animal is an apex predator with an extremely strong sense of smell which helps it locate its prey. Any guesses as to which animal has this talent?

Volunteer: A shark!

Educator: That is exactly right, place this card above the shark image! My cohost _____ will explain this talent a little more.

Diver: Sharks smell through nares and over half of their brain is devoted to this sense! They use smell to locate their prey. Since sharks are an apex predator they use this talent to keep other prey populations at healthy and sustainable numbers. Without sharks with their strong sense of smell, the ocean's fish populations would be very unstable. So we need to make sure to keep the sharks at healthy sustainable numbers too!

Educator: Sounds like the sharks like to eat a lot of fish! I think some audience members may be wondering if they eat their tank mates, would you mind sharing how we fed the 11 sharks in the GOT?

Diver: Quickly talk about feeding technique (non-native species are fed, MWF, quality over quantity in feeding)

Educator: So now we know that sharks have a strong sense of smell, but let's see how well our volunteer measures up with a smell challenge. We will blindfold our volunteer and have them guess what we are holding in front of them, by just using their sense of smell!

- Have the volunteer put on the blindfold and wave hand in front to test if they can see through the blindfold
- Pull out the big box of crayons, show it to audience and then hold it in front of volunteer's nose
- Have volunteer guess

Volunteer: I think it's crayons!

Educator: Great job, you have a great sense of smell just like a shark! Huge round of applause for our Shark volunteer! Hold on to this pin and at the end of the show we will see who gets the title of Most Talented Animal!

Talent: Sea Turtle (pick an older volunteer) – GPS

Educator: Ok, on to our next talent, do we have another volunteer? (*ask name of volunteer*) Ok, _____ are you ready?? Here is your clue: Although this animal doesn't have a smart phone with GPS, they can find their way home over hundreds of miles out at sea. Any guesses as to which animal has this talent?

Volunteer: The sea turtle!

Educator: That is exactly right, place this card above the sea turtle image!! Cohost_____ can you explain this talent a little more?

Diver: Sea turtles are amazing animals and can find the beach where they were hatched after being away for 20+ years! This is why the SC coastline is so important, there are hundreds of sea turtles that make their way back to their home beach every summer to lay their own eggs. A female can lay more than 100 eggs in one nest and could have more than one nest per season, which is May-August, depending on the species. Now remember, when you're done visiting our beautiful beaches, make sure to fill in any holes, break down sand castles, and clean up any trash- these actions will help the baby sea turtles make it to the ocean without getting caught up in any of our debris!

Educator: So now that we know about the sea turtle's talent, it's your turn! Follow me to the map and we'll see how good your navigational skills are... (*pull down the US map*) Point to where you were born!! (*If they weren't born in the US and they say their hometown isn't on the map, they are exactly right! Tell them they have a great sense of direction just like a sea turtle!!*)

Volunteer: Points to a city, hopefully they are correct!

Educator: Great job, you have a good sense of direction just like a sea turtle, hold on to this pin until the end of the show when we vote on which animal is the Most Talented Animal! Huge round of applause for our volunteer!

Educator: Ok we have time for one more volunteer... (remember, you can do the talents in any order, but after the third one, keep the last volunteer up with you and call the other 2 to join you for the voting)

Talent: Barracuda – SPEED (need to prep raceway before show, use rope to measure 19 ft and put tape at start and end of it, put rope away before show so no one trips)

Educator: (Ask name of volunteer) Ok, _____ are you ready?? Here is your clue: This animal is the fastest in the tank and can swim up to 27 mph! Any guesses as to which animal has this talent?

Volunteer: the Barracuda!

Educator: That is exactly right, place this card above the barracuda image!! Let's go back to my cohost for more information!

Diver: Barracuda's use their speed to catch their prey with a sudden burst of speed! Their body shape also helps with their speed. Look for a fish that has a long pointed face and a body that is shaped like a missile/submarine/tube. We have two barracudas in the GOT and since they are also top predators, the barracudas are target fed so the divers know how much they ate, how often, and can keep tabs on their behavior.

Educator: The barracuda can swim up to 27 mph, which is very fast!! But let's see how you compare! Follow me to the start line, I will time you as you will run as fast as you can to the mark on the carpet and then back again. Then we will compare it to the barracuda's speed! On your mark, get set, GO! (time them with the stopwatch)

Educator: You ran 39 ft in _____ seconds. A barracuda does that distance in just 1 second! They are so fast!! But great job and huge round of applause for our volunteer. Remember to hold on to this pin until the end of the show when we vote on which animal is the Most Talented Animal!

Talent: Eel – REVERSE

Educator: (Ask name of volunteer) Ok, _____ are you ready?? Here is your clue: This animal is a nocturnal feeder and is the only one in the tank that can swim backwards! Any guesses as to which animal has this talent?

Volunteer: the moray eel!

Educator: That is exactly right, place this card above the eel image!! Let's go back to my cohort for more information!

Diver: The moray eel is a nocturnal animal that usually hangs out by the front window and likes to hide in reef crevices and in tight spaces. Being able to swim backwards is really important for an eel as they search for the best hiding places in the reef. Here in the GOT we take advantage of this talent because we feed the eel in a PVC pipe that only the eel can fit in and swim out of. Since they eat at night, the divers sink a piece of mackerel or salmon into the pipe and when the eel is ready, she finds her food in her special feeding container!

Educator: So _____ (volunteer's name) let's see how well you would do as an eel in the GOT. We have a tunnel that you have to crawl into to find the fish at the end and then crawl backwards out with the fish! Ready? Get set, and go!

Educator: Great job! You were a perfect eel! Remember to hold on to this pin until the end of the show when we vote on which animal is the Most Talented Animal! Huge round of applause for our volunteer!

Voting for Most Talented Animal

Educator: Let's bring back our other contestants to see which animal deserves the title of GOT's Most Talented Animal! All of our volunteers did a great job displaying the adaptations of their animals, but let's quickly review those talents before voting on which animal is the most talented. *(As you review the animals, give the volunteers the clue cards to hold on to and make sure to emphasize we are voting on the animal's talent, not the child- we don't want hurt feelings)*

Diver: Ok judges, you have a hard decision before you, but we need you to vote on which animal has the best talent! You will vote by clapping and cheering for your pick, so wait until the educator stands by the animal to start cheering! *(Educator, stand by each animal to let the audience cheer for their top pick)*

Educator: And the winner is _____ *(educator should announce winner in case diver couldn't hear the cheers clearly & educator on second floor drops that animal's banner!!!)* Congratulations! Another big round of applause for everyone who participated in today's Aquarium's GOT Talent, volunteers you are welcome to take home your animal pins! Please join us for our next show at 12 in the Great Hall! Thank you again and we hope you have a great day here at the South Carolina Aquarium. I will be in the front if you have any other questions and our diver will be here for high fives and pictures! Thank you and have a great day.