



SOUTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM

# Watershed Society

What's your  
story?

THE WATERSHED CAMPAIGN  
Come together at  
[scaquarium.org/watershed](https://scaquarium.org/watershed)





“You have given our children a priceless gift. Children will enter, but future scientists, doctors and biologists will leave ... and they will never be the same.”

**Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr.**

At the grand opening of the South Carolina Aquarium in 2000, Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. likened the Aquarium to a cathedral. He referenced the practice, dating back to early civilizations, of communities rising unified to construct monuments to something larger than themselves. These massive undertakings would not only strengthen the fabric of a community, as individuals toiled and sacrificed, physically and financially, but also serve as a sustained reminder of the power of collective vision and belief.

This dream of the Aquarium has been realized, as has our founding vision: to create a unique educational institution whose exhibits highlight the magic of the Southeastern Appalachian Watershed, from the mountains to the sea, and to inspire visitors of all ages with not only the world within our walls, but also with a deep and abiding

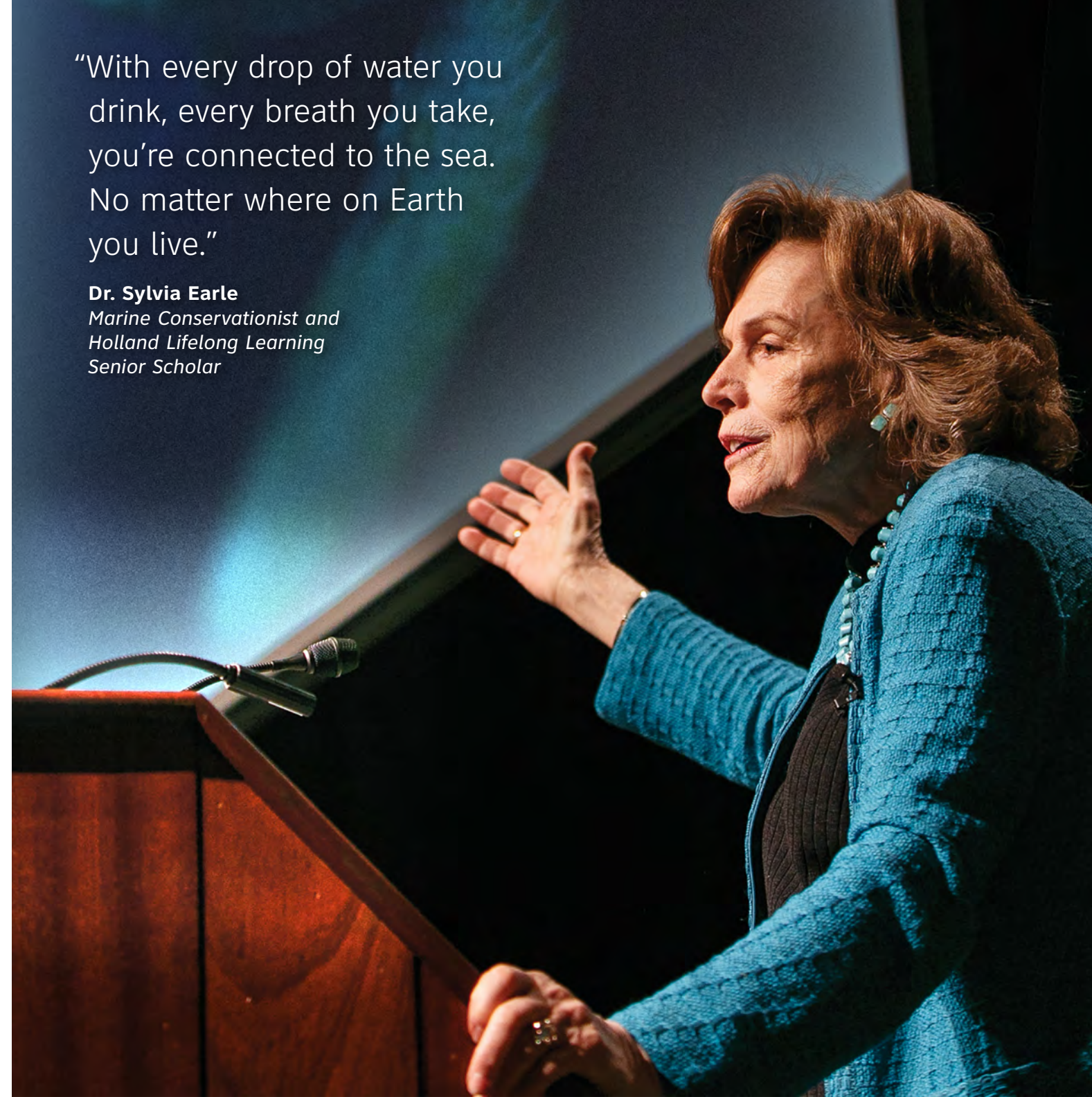
conservation awareness that stretches far beyond our immediate natural environment.

Since our founding, the Aquarium has been the grateful beneficiary of recurring financial support from a circle of individual and corporate donors. This group of civic stewards has enabled the Aquarium to fulfill its mission in communities in our region and beyond, and this community of donors grows year over year.

These generous supporters connect with the Aquarium through the Watershed Society, which offers a diverse calendar of engagements designed to inform, inspire and bond Watershed Society members and their families to one another and to our institution.

“With every drop of water you drink, every breath you take, you’re connected to the sea. No matter where on Earth you live.”

**Dr. Sylvia Earle**  
*Marine Conservationist and  
Holland Lifelong Learning  
Senior Scholar*







## WATERSHED BENEFACTOR

\$1,500 - \$2,499

- **Recognition on the Watershed Donor Wall**  
*Installation in 2018*
- **Holland Lifelong Learning Finale Invitation**  
Complimentary access to the finale event, featuring conservation luminaries from across the globe, hosted in collaboration with other key science organizations.
- **Annual Watershed Dinner**  
Exclusive invitation to a festive evening celebrating the thought leadership of nationally and internationally renowned conservation luminaries.
- **Specialized Access to the Aquarium**  
Unlimited Aquarium admission for all family members, plus two guests.

Exclusive invitation to unique Aquarium experiences.

Access to a concierge experience when visiting the Aquarium. *Please call prior to your visit to learn more.*

Complimentary Behind-the-Scenes and Sea Turtle Hospital tours led by Aquarium experts.



## WATERSHED PARTNER

\$2,500 - \$4,999

*All previously noted benefits, in addition to the following:*

- **Beyond the Classroom**  
**Watershed Family Discovery Series**  
Seasonal outings with the Aquarium Education team featuring hands-on learning techniques designed to reinforce statewide education standards.
- **Seaside Salon Series**  
Exclusive invitation to two annual gatherings in the company of current and past Aquarium board members featuring discussions on scientific innovation and philosophy, guided by thought leaders in the field of marine conservation.



## WATERSHED GUARDIAN

\$5,000 - \$9,999

*All previously noted benefits, in addition to the following:*

- **Invitation to select sessions of the annual Board Retreat**  
Opportunity to join the Board of Directors at their annual retreat.
- **Exclusive Sea Turtle Hospital Experience**  
Opportunity to connect with sea turtle experts in a private session in the Sea Turtle Hospital. *Subject to timing and availability; must be scheduled in advance.*  
  
Entry into the special-access “VIP Lane” during sea turtle releases.



## CHAIRMAN'S COUNCIL

\$10,000 +

*All previously noted benefits, in addition to the following:*

- **Watershed High School Fellowship Program**  
High school students whose families hold active Watershed memberships are eligible for a week-long shadowing experience at the Aquarium. Students will have the opportunity to spend each day with a different Aquarium staff member. The program will offer workplace experience for young people interested in careers in science, marine biology, education and conservation.
- **Watershed Explorers**  
Chairman's Council members will be invited on an exclusive excursion to an eco-tourism venue in the company of conservation experts and select Aquarium staff. The inaugural destination will be selected in fall 2016, and the first trip will occur in 2017.



*THE MISSION OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM IS TO  
INSPIRE CONSERVATION OF THE NATURAL WORLD BY  
EXHIBITING AND CARING FOR ANIMALS, BY EXCELLING IN  
EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, AND BY PROVIDING AN  
EXCEPTIONAL VISITOR EXPERIENCE.*

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Since our opening in 2000, we've served more than one million students with our award-winning education programs, creating transformative learning experiences that pave the way to careers in the natural sciences and a sustained passion for the natural world. We launched an internationally recognized sea turtle hospital that has mobilized coastal communities throughout our state to actively engage in conservation work to protect the future of these precious animals, and we have emerged as a key cultural and economic anchor in our region.

I am humbled by the investment that so many of you have made in the Watershed campaign to ensure the success of these initiatives.


**Kevin Mills**  
*President and CEO*



"I've come to understand that we all live on the waterfront. Even if our house doesn't back up onto the ocean, or a lake, or river, our water's so connected that even the storm drain in front of your home is waterfront in a way, because it leads directly to the watershed."

**Alexandra Cousteau**  
*2009 South Carolina Aquarium  
Conservation Award Recipient*





For additional information,  
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South Carolina  
Aquarium