



## Field Trip Logistics

### Arrival

The Aquarium opens at 9 a.m. and closes at 5 p.m. 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 Thom what time you will be arriving if it is different than stated in your email.

### Parking

Parking for buses is free and conveniently located behind the city-operated Aquarium Garage in the bus lane. For directions, visit [scaquarium.org/directions-parking](https://scaquarium.org/directions-parking). The drop-off area for students and chaperones is the sidewalk next to the bus lane. For the safety of your students, please do not use Concord Street for drop-off. Please remind bus drivers to not idle for longer than five minutes (decreases air pollution). We highly encourage you to use the restrooms located in the garage before walking to the Aquarium.

### Program Location

Programs will be taught in the Boeing Learning Lab at the Charleston Maritime Center, located mere minutes from the Aquarium at 10 Wharfside Street. After parking in the bus lane, walk to the Aquarium building for your orientation (please use the restrooms in the garage). From there, Aquarium staff will accompany your group to the Boeing Learning Lab for your classroom session. If your students are in the Aquarium touring and it's time for your classroom program, please walk outside and wait near your color flag for a staff member to help you.

### Lunches

Schools may eat lunch outside the Aquarium in Liberty Square. During inclement weather, we recommend using the arrival area of the garage or the covered pavilions in front of the Fort Sumter Museum. **Please do not bring your lunches into the Aquarium.** We recommend that you leave them on your bus until your lunch time. We do not have a space to store lunches in the Aquarium.

### Chaperones and Extra Chaperone Payment

For Dominion Energy School Programs, we allow one free parent chaperone per six students. Certified South Carolina teachers always receive free admission and should not be included in the parent chaperone count; please put teacher aids, special needs assistants, nurses and administrators in the teacher count number. Chaperone count is for parents only. For example, if you have 60 students in your group, you will receive 10 free parent chaperones **plus** the teachers with the group. If you want to bring more chaperones than the 1:6 ratio allows, the cost is \$15 each.

Payment arrangements for the extra parent chaperones must be made in one payment (school check or 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 full price at the gate. It's also possible there will not be tickets for the parent to purchase due to timed ticketing. 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. Please be accurate with your number counts.

Your final chaperone number should be given to Jaime at least one month before your trip. Please note that our payment policy aims 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 parent chaperones in order to make things run smoothly for all. If you have any questions, please call Jaime.

Our policy is a minimum of two and a maximum of five adults allowed into the classroom during a classroom program. If you have more adults than five per program, they can enjoy the Aquarium exhibits or the Boeing Learning Lab outdoor learning space during the classroom program. Please make sure to share this information with the parents so they know what to expect. Two teachers/teacher aids/adults are required to be in the classroom program per program. Teachers/Teacher Aids/Adults are responsible for helping with behavior, bathroom breaks and student issues.

### Members

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

### Gift Shop

Students are allowed into the Gift Shop in small groups with the supervision of an adult. Backpacks are not allowed in the Gift Shop. We will ask students to place their purchases aside during their classroom program in order to reduce distractions (this includes all food, drinks and candy).

### School Programs Teacher Workshops

All teachers must attend a three-hour workshop session if chosen for a School Program. During the workshop, teachers learn about the Aquarium's online curriculum and get comfortable with the logistics of their upcoming field trip. Teachers will receive three-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 the workshop the first year they are chosen.** Failure to complete a workshop will result in the cancellation of your program. If you have questions, contact Jaime.

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## Field Trip Checklist

### Before your visit:

- ☐ Confirm your trip by emailing Jaime (you should have already done this step).
- ☐ Fill out the "Dominion Energy School Programs Contract" as you are planning your trip and email or fax it back to Jaime no later than one month before your trip.
  - Indicate your number count for students, teachers and parents on the contract. This is due one month before your field trip.



- ☐ Arrange payment for extra parent chaperones no later than one month before your trip (if applicable).
- ☐ Prepare your students by completing the three recommended pre-visit activities (more info below under “Online Curriculum”).
- ☐ To get the most out of your visit, prepare an activity for your students when they are not participating in the classroom program. The Aquarium has Scavenger Hunts, STEM Challenges and answer keys available if you would like to print them off before you come at [scaquarium.org/onsiteactivities](http://scaquarium.org/onsiteactivities)
- ☐ Print bus directions for your travels (see above link under “Parking”).
- ☐ Have these phone numbers handy so we can communicate the day of your trip.
  - **(843) 579-8562** – Text or call to reach Jaime’s cell phone
  - **(843) 577-FISH (3474)** – If you can’t reach Jaime on her cell, call this number for the Aquarium
- ☐ Email or call Jaime 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 next to the garage and use the garage restrooms.
- ☐ Walk toward the Aquarium. Guest Services will greet you in front of the Aquarium for a brief orientation before leading you into the building or before a staff member escorts you to the Learning Lab.
- ☐ The most important thing is to be on time for your classroom program/s. Please pay close attention to when your program/s start. If you have any questions or issues with your designated program time/s, please contact Jaime in advance.
- ☐ When you are not in the classroom, you are more than welcome to enjoy the Aquarium exhibits on your self-guided tour.
- ☐ Groups can come and go from the Aquarium building as long as chaperones are wearing their chaperone sticker (given at orientation when you arrive). Please note, no students may leave the Aquarium unattended.

### 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 great post-visit activities online for each grade level (see list below).

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## Online Curriculum

The Aquarium provides a standards-based, award-winning online curriculum for teachers to use in their classroom. The activities provide a fun and engaging way to connect your field trip to lessons being taught in your classroom. The easy-to-use curriculum can be found at [curriculum.scaquarium.org](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.

# Dominion Energy School Programs

## Field Trip Logistics



We ask that you complete three pre-visit activities before your field trip to enhance student learning. Here are the three suggested pre-visit activities for each program:

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>K–2 (Habitats)</b><br>Living Things<br>Water Wonders<br>Habitat Hop                                       | <b>3–4 (Life Cycles and Adaptations)</b><br>Communities and Ecosystems<br>Life Cycles<br>Adaptations | <b>5 (Food Chains and Adaptations)</b><br>Communities and Ecosystems<br>Food Chains and Webs<br>Adaptations |
| <b>6–8 (Watersheds)</b><br>What are Watersheds?<br>Topography<br>Water Quality                               | <b>6–12 (Earth History)</b><br>Geologic Time Scale<br>Rock Cycle and Layers<br>Fossil Gap            |                                                                                                             |
| <b>9–12 (Human Impacts: Sea Turtles)</b><br>A Sea Turtle’s Life<br>Sea Turtle Diets<br>Sea Turtle Strandings | <b>9–12 (Human Impacts: Dolphins)</b><br>Marine Mammals<br>Diets and Dangers<br>Dolphin Strandings   |                                                                                                             |

These are the recommended post-visit activities:

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>K–2 (Habitats)</b><br>Helping Habitats<br>Litter-Free Starts with Me                                            | <b>3–5 (Life Cycles/Food Chains and Adaptations)</b><br>Helping Communities<br>Litter-Free Community |
| <b>6–8 (Watersheds)</b><br>Helping Watersheds<br>Litter-Free Land to Sea                                           | <b>6–12 (Earth History)</b><br>SC Rocks and Fossils                                                  |
| <b>9–12 (Human Impacts: Sea Turtles)</b><br>South Carolina Aquarium Sea Turtles<br>Litter-Free Human Impact is Key | <b>9–12 (Human Impacts: Dolphins)</b><br>Marine Mammal Debate<br>Litter-Free Human Impact is Key     |

## Dominion Energy School Programs

For more information about your free standards-based school program, please visit our website at [scaquarium.org/schoolprograms](http://scaquarium.org/schoolprograms). 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.

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