

South Carolina Aquarium SSP Fieldtrip Logistics

Parking

Parking for buses is free of and conveniently located behind the Aquarium Wharf Parking Garage in the bus lane. For directions go to www.scaquarium.org/Groups/PDFS/BusMap.pdf. The drop off area for students and chaperones is in the bus lane.

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

For the free Structured School Programs (SSP), the Aquarium allows one free parent chaperone per 6 students. Teachers always receive free admission and should not be included in the parent chaperone count. 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 parent chaperones than the 1:6 ratio allows, the cost is \$14 each. Your final chaperone number should be given to Jaime Thom at least 2 weeks before your trip.

Gift Shop

The Aquarium has a gift shop and students are allowed into the shop in small groups with the supervision of a 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. 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, 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, please contact Jaime Thom.

Fieldtrip Check List

Before your visit:

- Confirm your trip by emailing or calling Jaime Thom (you should already have done this step).
- Attend a SSP Teacher Workshop (unless you've already attended in the past).
- Prepare your students by completing the 3 recommended pre-visit activities (more info below under 'Online Curriculum').

- Show your students the orientation video a couple weeks before their trip to get them excited as well as oriented to our building. You can find the video online at <http://www.scaquarium.org/Education/orientation.html>
- Send a final number count (student, teacher and parent chaperone) no later than 2 weeks before your scheduled fieldtrip.
- Fax or bring the behavior agreement with you.
- 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 a bit late. Call and let us know so we can prepare. Thanks!!
- Email or call Jaime Thom if you have any questions.

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 confirmation 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 www.scaquarium.org/Visit/calendar.aspx.

After your visit

- Complete the post-visit activity from the online curriculum with your students for a great wrap-up.
- 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:
 - South Carolina Aquarium
 - Jaime Thom
 - 100 Aquarium Wharf
 - Charleston, SC 29401

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://www.scaquarium.org/Curriculum/index.html>. Each activity will include a glossary of defined terms, 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 nd Grade	3 rd -5 th Grade	6 th -8 th grade	9 th -12 th Grade
Living Things	Sculpting SC	What are Watersheds?	A Sea Turtle's Life
Water Wonders	Communities and Ecosystems	Topography	Sea Turtle Diets
SC Habitats	Adaptations	Water Quality	Sea Turtle Strandings

***Note: If you are a high school teacher, the activities are **not** online as of Sept. 2011, but will be soon. Please contact Jaime Thom and she will email you the activities.*

- 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://www.scaquarium.org/Education/teachers.html>.
- Teacher E-Updates – Stay up-to-date with the latest Aquarium news for schools by joining our Education Listserve. Once a quarter you will receive information regarding fieldtrips, new exhibits, curriculum and special programs for teachers. Sign up by clicking on E-news at www.scaquarium.org. (Be sure to check the 'Education' option.)

Structured School Program

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

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