



# **Tuck in with the Turtles**

## **Group Leader Packet**

Please pass the enclosed information along to all of the members in your group. Please remember that each student must have a signed copy of the Program Release Waiver to be able to participate in the program.



## Program Release Waiver

On behalf of the participants listed below, I hereby release the South Carolina Aquarium officers and its employees from any claims which, I, or my representatives might have for injuries or damage resulting from failure to obey and cooperate as instructed, or as a result of the risk and dangers involved in this activity.

In the event that I (or participants below) need medical treatment, I hereby consent and authorize the accompanying representative of the South Carolina Aquarium to permit treatment. I agree to be responsible for the cost of any medical services and to indemnify the South Carolina Aquarium for such expenses.

I, and participants listed below, do not have any physical or mental conditions that would restrict or prevent all participating in the scheduled activity, or which would increase the risk of harm with the exceptions listed below.

**Please Print:**

Guardian's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Participant's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Medications: \_\_\_\_\_

In case of an emergency, please contact the following second party to respond:

NAME

PHONE

RELATIONSHIP

On behalf of the participants listed above, I hereby give consent and permission to participate in the South Carolina Aquarium's Sleepover:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Medical Insurance Company Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Medical Insurance Policy Number

The South Carolina Aquarium, a non-profit organization, reserves the right to use photographs of visitors taken on our property for promotional purposes.

## The South Carolina Aquarium's Sleepover Experience

### Welcome to the South Carolina Aquarium

Planning began in the early 1980's, after Mayor Joseph Riley decided that South Carolina should house its very own aquarium. After choosing Calhoun Park as the location in 1985 and breaking ground ten years later in 1995, the South Carolina Aquarium opened to the public on May 19, 2000.

The Aquarium is a 501(c)3 private non-profit corporation. As such, the Aquarium relies on the generosity of individuals, corporations and foundations to fulfill its mission of *inspiring conservation of the natural world by exhibiting and caring for animals, by excelling in education and research and by providing an exceptional visitor experience.*



The Aquarium, set 200 feet into the Charleston Harbor, offers a state-of-the-art environmental learning center that encompasses the entire spectrum of the **Southeast Appalachian Watershed** as found in the South Carolina Mountains, Piedmonts, Coastal Plains, Coasts, and the Atlantic Ocean.

The Aquarium's 93,000-square-foot building includes 9 galleries featuring 6,000-7,000 amazing aquatic animals, from river otters and sharks to loggerhead turtles, in over 100 exhibits.

### The Sleepover Experience

The South Carolina Aquarium's Education Department achieves the organization's mission by offering nearly 20 different education programs including our Sleepover Program. It is a slumber party like you have never experienced before with a night filled with fun, unique and educational activities!

Our dedicated and enthusiastic sleepover staff will lead you and your group on an adventure through the night while exploring the Aquarium's galleries and exhibits, learning about our natural world, coming face to face with live animals and enjoying every second of it!

The Sleepover Program includes educational programs from interactive dive shows and animal encounters to fun games, evening snacks\* and continental breakfast, plus the best view of the Charleston Harbor. With the enchanting glow of water, the quiet of nature and the beauty of our animals accompanying you to dreamland, we assure you a South Carolina Aquarium experience you will never forget.

\*Please note that only evening snacks will be provided and not a complete dinner.

## Preparing for the Sleepover Experience



### What to Bring:

- Sleeping bag or air mattress & blankets
- Pillow
- Pajamas & slippers
- Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.)
- A sweater or jacket (the Aquarium tends to stay chilly)
- Special medications (to be given out by teacher, leader, or parent only)
- Flashlights (please do not shine into any exhibits)
- **Signed waiver with emergency contact per *person***
- **Signed behavior agreement (group form)**
- Journal, pen, fish guide (optional)
- Camera (optional)

### Please Leave at Home:

- Gum
- Laser lights
- Matches
- Knives or other sharp objects
- Candles
- Valuables

**\*Please keep all cell phones on vibrate mode during the evening\***

# Sleepover Check List



## 1 Month Prior to Sleepover

- Secure transportation
- Arrange chaperones
- Hand out Program Release Waiver forms to students to take home for parents or guardians to complete and have them returned to you. They will be collected the night of the sleepover.
- Make sure every adult attending brings a signed waiver as well.

## 2-3 Weeks Prior to Sleepover

- Confirm transportation
- Confirm chaperones
- View sample itinerary
- \*Contact Kate Hinman, the SCA Sleepover Coordinator, at [khinman@scaquarium.org](mailto:khinman@scaquarium.org) with the following information:
  - Total number of participants - Adults/Kids
  - Food allergies/Medications
  - Special needs
  - Mode of transportation
  - If arriving in personal vehicles, number of cars
  - Any special requests
  - Changes to itinerary to better accommodate your group

## 1 Week Prior to Sleepover

- Review packing list and expected behavior with students
- Collect and check the Program Release Waiver forms are completed for each person participating
- Contact Kate if anything has changed with the group's details

## Day of Sleepover

- Remind chaperones and students of responsibilities and behavior expectations
- Upon arrival provide the SCA sleepover host with:
  - Final payments
  - Signed Program Release Waiver forms for each person (adults included)

\*Kate will email you a month or so prior to your sleepover before you will need to contact her.

## Tuck in with the turtles!

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>7:00 p.m. – 7:20 p.m.</b>   | <b>Check-in &amp; Luggage Drop-Off</b>  |
| <b>7:20 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</b>   | <b>Welcome</b>  |
| <b>7:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.</b>   | <b>Great Ocean Tank Experience</b>  |
| <b>8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.</b>   | <b>Explore Aquarium</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Touch Tank</li><li>• Scavenger Hunt</li><li>• 4D Theater *additional price*</li></ul> |
| <b>9:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.</b>  | <b>Animal Encounters and Snack</b>  |
| <b>10:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.</b> | <b>Free Time/Set-Up Camp</b>  |
| <b>11:00 p.m.</b>              | <b>Lights Out</b>   |
| <b>6:30 a.m.</b>               | <b>Rise and Shine Sunshine!</b>   |
| <b>7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.</b>   | <b>Breakfast and Aquarium Gift Shop</b>   |
| <b>8:00 a.m.</b>               | <b>Good-byes</b>  |

## Teacher and Group Expectations

In order to ensure the best possible sleepover experience, we must emphasize the importance of your involvement and preparation as well as the all chaperones attending. Here are a few rules and expectations to ensure the safety of you and your group as well as our animals the night of your sleepover:

- No running or “Heelys”. The floor is very hard and there are a lot of things that you could hurt yourself on. We don’t want Mom or Dad to come get you tonight and you miss out on all the fun.
- You will get a chance to touch some amazing animals here at the Aquarium. The touch tank is a great place to see some of these animals and you’ll get a chance to meet some of these creatures later in the evening. This area is only open when a staff member is present. Please to not put your hands in any of the other tanks or try to touch any animals on exhibit!!!
- The animals need their sleep too. They are used to their daily patterns/ behavior. Please no shining flashlights into the exhibits.
- The animals don’t eat gum. We ask you not to either.
- The animals are not used to cell phone noise and your sleeping neighbors might not be too happy either. Please turn cell phones and pagers off or to vibrate mode.
- Please do not leave the building. Re-entry is not permitted. \*\* You can certainly enjoy the Riverside Terrace, outdoor decks and both aviaries until 11:00pm. Doors to the aviaries will be locked at 11:00pm and reopened in the morning.
- The lights over exhibits may start to go out around 10:30pm. Flash photos are OK until the exhibit lights go off at 11:00pm.
- You may not sleep on the stairs or benches; you may sleep anywhere there is carpet.
- Restrooms are only located on the first floor across from the Aquarium Shop. Once you know where you’ll be sleeping, make sure you know the quickest route to the bathrooms, just in case. There are no shower facilities.
- Please keep in mind that smoking is not permitted anywhere in the facility, including the terrace. Smoking would have to take place outside of the building and the building will be locked during sleeping hours (11 p.m. until 6:30 a.m.).
- Feel free to wake up an Aquarium staff member if you need something during the night.
- Please leave the Aquarium as neat and tidy as you found it when you arrived.

We appreciate the assistance of group leaders and chaperones in keeping students on task, safe and respectful of the educators, our facility and the animals. Because the activities throughout the evening are hands-on, encouraging students to be engaged and interact, we ask that group leaders and chaperones refrain from answering questions or doing the activities for the students. You are a valuable component for a great experience and your help is greatly appreciated.