

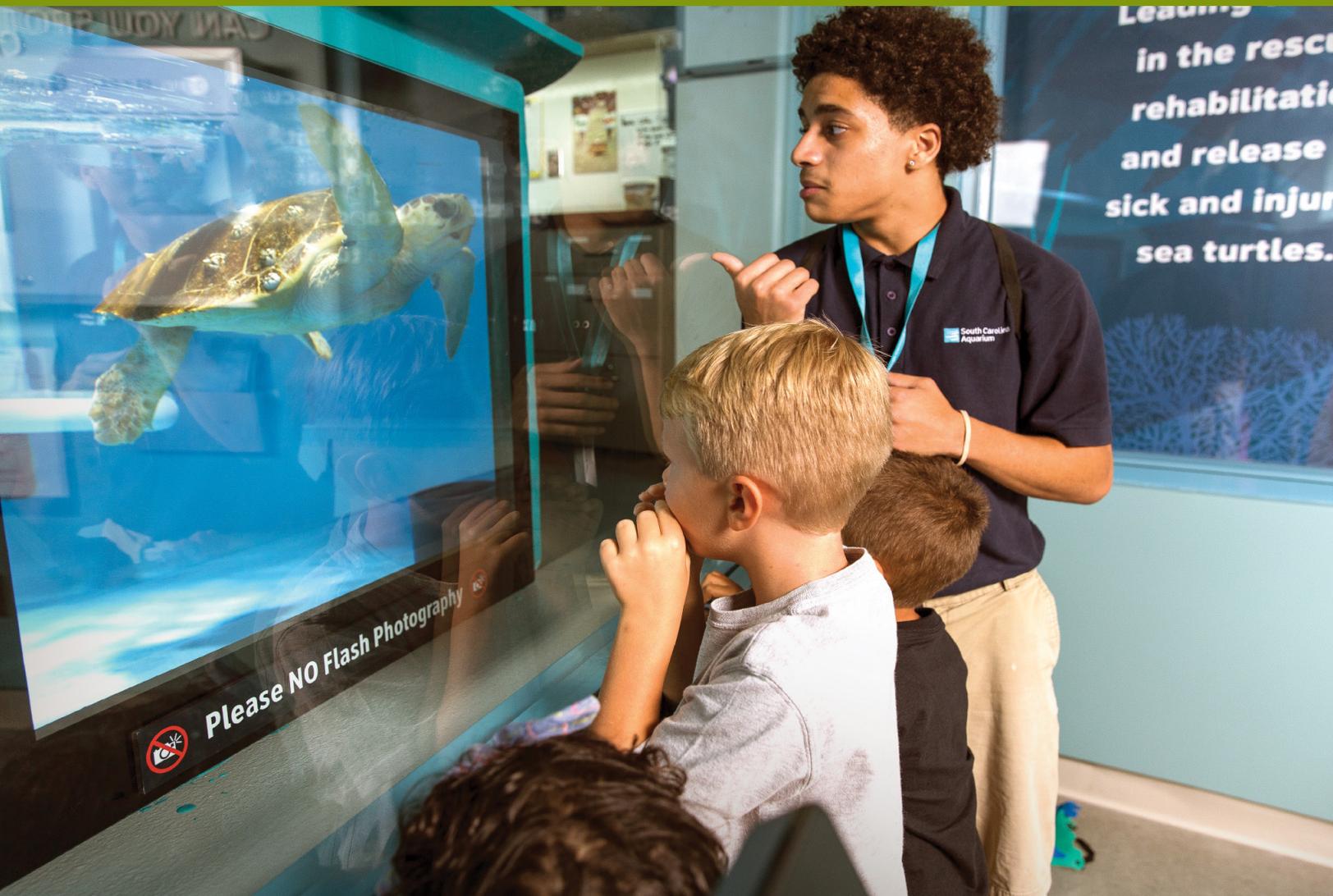
# PROTECT WHAT YOU LOVE

## Field Trip Toolkit



South Carolina  
Aquarium

# Ignite Passion for Water, Wildlife and Wild Places



Spark enthusiasm for conservation of the natural world in your students with a visit to the South Carolina Aquarium. As a class, take an educational journey through South Carolina's diverse habitats while learning what you can do to protect them. From start to finish, hands-on activities will support state standards and inspire STEM education. It's more than just a field trip – it's an opportunity to discover the wonder of water, wildlife and wild places.

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## **How do I book a field trip?**

Call our reservations specialists at (843) 577-FISH (3474), or complete our online inquiry form at [scaquarium.org/groups/group-inquiry](https://scaquarium.org/groups/group-inquiry).

## **When should I book my field trip?**

Most groups book their reservations anywhere from a month to a year in advance. At least one week's notice is preferred, but we can accommodate groups on shorter notice.

## **How many teachers and chaperones are included with my reservation?**

Certified South Carolina teachers receive free admission. Complimentary admission is given to 1 chaperone per 10 students.

## **How can I make changes to the number of attendees on my reservation?**

Call our reservations specialists at (843) 577-FISH (3474) to make changes to your reservation details at least one week in advance of your visit.

## **Where can I park my bus or van?**

Parking is available for buses and motor coaches in the bus lane behind the Aquarium Garage. Vans may park inside the Aquarium Garage. Learn more on page 5.

## **Will my visit be led by a tour guide?**

No, your group's tour will be self-guided at your own pace. Education Interpreters throughout the building can help you learn more about the animals and habitats that interest you most.

## **What time should I arrive?**

Arrive at least 30 minutes before your reservation time for restroom breaks and orientation.

## **Does the Aquarium offer special programs and shows?**

Yes, we offer at least one educational program every hour, from dive shows to turtle talks. Check out our daily schedule to see what's happening during your visit at [scaquarium.org/calendar](https://scaquarium.org/calendar).

## **Do I need to purchase separate tickets to visit Zucker Family Sea Turtle Recovery™?**

No. Admission to the entire Aquarium, including Zucker Family Sea Turtle Recovery, is included in your reservation.

## **Can my group eat lunch at the Aquarium?**

Although the Aquarium cannot provide lunches for groups, our reservations specialists can offer recommendations for preferred boxed lunch vendors. Your class may eat lunch in Liberty Square, under Fort Sumter Museum's covered pavilions, or in the arrival area of the Aquarium Garage.

## **Can students visit the gift shop?**

Students may peruse the gift shop in small groups with the supervision of a chaperone.

## **Does the Aquarium work with any other attractions to accommodate groups?**

Yes. You can book discounted group tours to other Charleston attractions at the same time as you plan your group's Aquarium visit, all coordinated by your reservation specialist. Visit [scaquarium.org/tourism-partners](https://scaquarium.org/tourism-partners) for a complete list of options.

# Extend Your Experience



- **Standards-based Curriculum.** Enhance your field trip before and after your visit with our standards-based curriculum. Download age-appropriate activities at [curriculum.scaquarium.org](http://curriculum.scaquarium.org).
- **Adopt a Loggerhead.** Raise funds as a class to symbolically adopt a loggerhead, and you'll help provide exceptional care for animals here at the Aquarium, and help protect water, wildlife and wild places. Learn more at [scaquarium.org/adopt](http://scaquarium.org/adopt).
- **I Protect Sea Turtles Read-a-thon.** Support sea turtles in rehabilitation at the South Carolina Aquarium while encouraging students to read! We can provide a complete guide with worksheets, reading logs and recommended timelines to make it easy. Contact Caitlin Cash at [ccash@scaquarium.org](mailto:ccash@scaquarium.org) to get your Read-a-thon toolkit.
- **Become Citizen Scientists.** Learn about science and make a positive environmental impact by removing litter from your favorite places. Download the South Carolina Aquarium Citizen Science app to learn how to conduct a litter sweep and how to contribute data on the debris your class observes in your local environment. Then, explore the app's database and graphing tools to analyze your class' conservation impact!
- **Distance Learning.** Our Education staff can connect with your classroom using videoconferencing technology to share our knowledge of wildlife and wild places, answer questions, and provide an up-close look at our amazing animals and exhibits! What topic would you like us to discuss with your class? For more info or to schedule a program, contact Beth Demas at [bdemas@scaquarium.org](mailto:bdemas@scaquarium.org).
- **Aquarium Rovers.** Can't make it to the Aquarium? We can come to you! The Aquarium Rovers outreach program brings interactive, hands-on learning to your facility. Each standards-based program includes engaging activities, wildlife artifacts and live animals. We travel all over the state to inspire people of all ages to care for water, wildlife and wild places. Learn more at [scaquarium.org/rovers](http://scaquarium.org/rovers).



# Directions for Buses and Motor Coaches

These directions have been customized for buses that are restricted in their use of city streets. In order to abide by Charleston tourism laws, it is important that you follow these directions.

## From I-26 East

1. Take I-26 to the end and follow the signs to Exit 221B (Meeting Street / Visitors Center/ Downtown).
2. Merge right onto Meeting Street approximately 10 blocks to Calhoun Street.
3. Turn left onto Calhoun Street and continue to Washington Street.
4. Turn left onto Washington Street and follow the signs for motor coach and bus pick-up and drop-off area.

## From Highway 17 North (West Ashley)

1. Take Highway 17 North across the Ashley River Bridge, and follow the signs to Calhoun Street.
2. Turn left onto Calhoun Street.
3. Stay on Calhoun Street approximately 15 blocks to Washington Street.
4. Turn left onto Washington Street and follow the signs for motor coach and bus pick-up and drop-off area.

## From Highway 17 South (Mount Pleasant)

1. Follow Highway 17 South across the Cooper River.
2. Take the East Bay Street / South Carolina Aquarium exit.
3. At the light, turn left onto East Bay Street and follow to Calhoun Street.
4. Turn left onto Calhoun Street and continue to Washington Street.
5. Turn left onto Washington Street, and follow the signs for the motor coach and bus pick-up and drop-off area.

Please be prepared for inclement weather. Your group will walk approximately 100 yards from the drop-off area to the Aquarium.

Buses and motor coaches may park in the bus lane. Vans may park in the Aquarium Garage.

Visiting tour vehicles must secure a permit from the City of Charleston. Permit applications are available at [charleston-sc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/469](http://charleston-sc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/469).

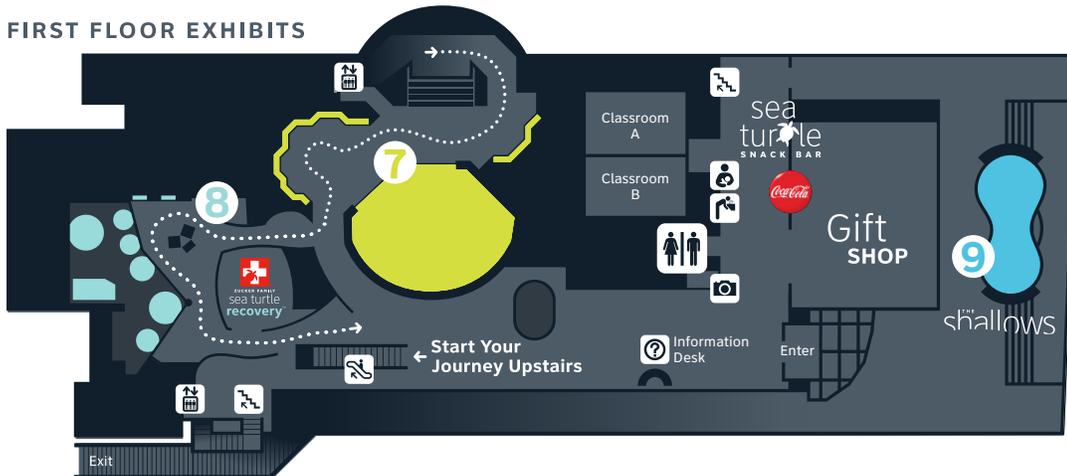


# Aquarium Floor Map

## SECOND FLOOR EXHIBITS



## FIRST FLOOR EXHIBITS



### Gift Shop

Don't miss your chance to grab the perfect gift or purchase Aquarium gear. A portion of proceeds benefit the conservation work of the Aquarium.



### Sea Turtle Snack Bar

Satisfy your snack cravings with a quick bite or a cool treat on the go.



Restrooms are located on the first floor across from the Gift Shop. Need assistance? Stop by the Information Desk for help. The Nursing Room is located on the first floor adjacent to the Classrooms.



Smoking (including e-cigarettes), heels, balloons and concealed weapons are prohibited throughout the South Carolina Aquarium.

### 1 Mountain Forest

Begin your journey from the mountains to the sea with a bald eagle and playful river otters.

### 2 Piedmont

Visit our American kestrel and see the rich and varied aquatic life supported by streams, rivers and man-made reservoirs.

### 3 Coastal Plain

Say hello to our albino alligator and learn about reptiles and amphibians that call South Carolina home.

### 4 Saltmarsh Aviary

See coastal birds up close and observe terrapins and stingrays in their natural habitat.

### 5 Touch Tank

Visit our touch tank and encounter stingrays, sea urchins and more.

### 6 Coast

From seahorses to lionfish, meet the creatures that inhabit our coastal waters and discover how you can make a Good Catch with sustainable seafood.

### 7 Ocean

Pretend you're a scuba diver in the 42-foot-deep Great Ocean Tank. See a loggerhead sea turtle, sharks and more than 500 fish!

### Zucker Family 8 Sea Turtle Recovery™

Experience the rescue, rehabilitation and release of sea turtles. Visit our current patients and practice caring for sick and injured turtles through augmented reality.

### 9 The Shallows

Come fingers to fins with rays at this 20,000-gallon outdoor touch tank overlooking the Charleston Harbor.

### BricksAlive

Located throughout the second floor, more than 250,000 LEGO® bricks form sculptures depicting South Carolina's native wildlife.

LEGO® is a trademark of the LEGO Group, which does not sponsor, authorize or endorse this content.

# Field Trip Checklist

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## Before Your Visit

- Book your trip and submit full payment by contacting the Customer Service Center at (843) 577-FISH (3474).
- Complete the Signed Agreement and Reservation Changes Confirmation Letter and return to the Customer Service Center via fax at (866) 210-1059 or email at [reservations@scaquarium.org](mailto:reservations@scaquarium.org).
- Provide a finalized count of students, teachers and chaperones no later than 21 days prior to your trip to (843) 577-FISH (3474) or [reservations@scaquarium.org](mailto:reservations@scaquarium.org).
- Submit payment for any changes no later than 7 days prior to your trip by contacting the Customer Service Center at (843) 577-FISH (3474).
- Prepare a day-of-visit activity for your students. Age-appropriate Aquarium scavenger hunts can be downloaded [scaquarium.org/field-trips](http://scaquarium.org/field-trips). Scroll to the end of the page to access the scavenger hunts. The Aquarium does not provide printed scavenger hunts; please print in advance.
- Print the Field Trip Toolkit and review it thoroughly. Provide your bus driver with the directions, which are found on Page 4.

## During Your Visit

- Arrive at least 30 minutes prior to your reservation time for restroom breaks and orientation.
- If you are running late, please call (843) 577-FISH (3474) and inform the Aquarium representative of your estimated time of arrival.
- When you arrive, unload in the bus lane and walk toward the Aquarium. Group leaders should proceed to the ticket window to finalize group numbers and payment. An Aquarium Guide will greet the group in front of the building for a brief orientation before leading you inside.
- Enjoy your visit! The Aquarium experience is a self-guided tour. Entertaining and educational shows are held throughout the day. For information on show times, look for signs posted throughout the building, ask an Aquarium staff member, or visit [scaquarium.org/calendar](http://scaquarium.org/calendar).

## After Your Visit

- Host a Read-a-thon as a class to support the Sea Turtle Care Center. Contact [ccash@scaquarium.org](mailto:ccash@scaquarium.org) to get your Read-a-thon toolkit.
- Adopt a loggerhead as a class. Team up and raise funds to symbolically adopt a loggerhead, helping to provide quality care at the Aquarium and to protect animals in the wild. Learn more at [scaquarium.org/adopt](http://scaquarium.org/adopt).
- Hold a litter sweep in your community, and use the Litter-free Digital Journal to record and analyze the litter you remove. Download the South Carolina Aquarium Citizen Science app to learn how!



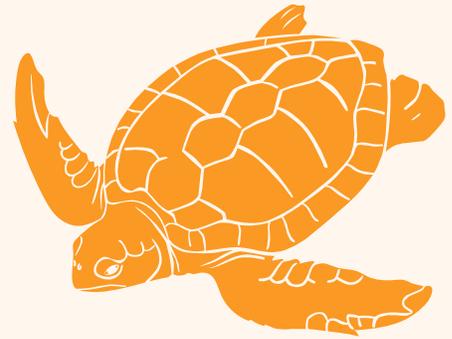
# Class Loggerhead Adoption Order Form

Please select one of the Adopt-an-Animal options below:

## • \$100 - \$249

### What your class will receive:

- Personalized class adoption certificate
- Sea turtle fun fact sheet
- One-year subscription to *tributaries*, our membership magazine
- Sea turtle plush
- Special information about sea turtle beach releases



## • \$250 - \$499

### Your class will receive all of the above, PLUS:

- South Carolina Aquarium pencil for each student (limited to 30 people)
- Sea turtle adoption sticker for each student (limited to 30 people)

## • \$500 - \$999

### Your class will receive all of the above, PLUS:

- Class picture from Magic Memories (limited to 30 people; paid group admission required)
- Recognition on the Aquarium blog

## • \$1,000+

### Your class will receive all of the above, PLUS:

- Class presentation by a Sea Turtle Care Center™ staff member  
(within 40 miles, scheduled 4 weeks in advance; schools further than 40 miles, call for alternative benefits)

Total amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Display Name (listed on certificate and for recognition): \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment:  Check – made payable to South Carolina Aquarium

Credit Card – Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_