

DEAR EDUCATOR:

Welcome to the National Aquarium!

We are so excited that you've chosen the National Aquarium for your school's field trip. In this packet you will find information to help you plan your visit. Please share this information with all teachers and chaperones accompanying the field trip. Download this packet at aqua.org/teachers.

Check-in and Checklists

To accomplish a successful field trip, please review the check-in information and checklists.

Chaperone Expectations and Teaching Tips

Your group must be accompanied by the required number of chaperones. Please copy and distribute the Chaperone Expectations and Teaching Tips page to each chaperone. Please visit aqua.org for a Visitor Guide Map of the Aquarium.

Directions and Parking

Please plan to arrive early to ensure that you are on time for your entry. Visit aqua.org for detailed directions and information about parking. Buses can unload at the circle in front of the Aquarium. Please visit Baltimore.org for additional parking information.

Plan a Green Field Trip

See the tips below on how to make your trip as "green" as possible.

Classroom Activities

Teacher booklets at aqua.org/teachers can extend the learning experience for your students in the classroom.

School Program (optional)

If you registered for a school education program, please arrive at least 20 minutes before your program to ensure your program isn't canceled. The teacher booklet in this packet will help you introduce the topic to your students.

Souvenir Kits and Aquadopt

Save valuable time on your trip by ordering souvenir kits for your students. Download the order form at aqua.org/teachers. You can also support the Aquarium's mission through the Aquadopt program.

Box Lunch Information

Ordering box lunches is a convenient way to provide lunch for your group. Download the menu at aqua.org/teachers. Outside lunches may not be brought into the Aquarium.

Parents' Aquarium Guide (English and Spanish versions)

The enclosed letter to parents will introduce them to the adventure their child is about to experience.

Online Resources

The Aquarium has many online resources that will help you make the most of your visit or to bring more science into your classroom. An extensive list of free resources is available at aqua.org/teachers.

Daily Presentations

Viewing an animal feeding or a live animal presentation can really engage students. Upon entering the Aquarium, check the "Today at the Aquarium" digital message boards for the current schedule of animal feedings, presentations and animal encounters. Visit aqua.org and click on "Plan your Visit" to customize your experience.

Scavenger Hunt!

In your folder is the Aquarium Scavenger Hunt. Please photocopy and distribute to students or chaperones. Please be sure to provide pencils and clipboards. Remind students that they may not lean on the Aquarium exhibit glass/acrylic since it will scratch the windows.

Lockers

Lockers are available inside the Aquarium for your convenience. These lockers are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Each locker costs \$2 per token per use. The Aquarium does not have a coat check for groups.

In addition to field trips and school programs, the Aquarium offers a variety of outreach programs. To view all of our educational opportunities, please visit aqua.org/teachers.

Thank you for choosing the National Aquarium.



Jennifer L. Aiken
Education Programs Department
National Aquarium

OVER.....▶

PLAN A GREEN FIELD TRIP

Encourage your students to think green! Here are some simple, environmentally-friendly tips that can help students make a difference.

- Plant a tree, make a donation or take other action to offset the bus' carbon emissions for the field trip. Encourage your driver to turn off the engine while waiting in the bus circle.

- Check out the green products in the Aquarium Shop. Make thoughtful choices by purchasing local, organic or fair trade products.

- If students bring their lunches to eat outside, encourage them to use reusable bags and reusable drink containers.

- If your group does eat lunch outside, ask students to please place trash in the appropriate

container so trash does not enter the harbor. Trash is harmful to fish, birds and other animals.

- If you purchase food or drink from the Aquarium Cafes, please use the recycling containers located in the cafes. If your group does eat lunch outside, be sure students' dispose of their lunch garbage in the appropriate container – recycling or trash.

CHECK-IN INFORMATION

Please arrive 20 minutes before your scheduled entry time to keep your group on schedule and to have enough time to tour the building. To expedite the check-in process please have the count of all students and adults in your group ready. If the number in your group has changed from your current contract, you may be charged additional admission.

To check in go to one of the three "Will Call" windows on the green side of the blue and green triangular Ticket Center.

If you are going to be late, please call the Admissions Department at 410-659-4278 (available seven days a week, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) before your entry time. If you

are 15 minutes late for your scheduled education program (advanced reservations required), the program will be canceled.

Travel light. Food and beverages (including bagged and boxed lunches) may not be brought into the Aquarium. There are no storage facilities for food.

We reserve the right to search backpacks and bags due to heightened security measures. Groups with large numbers of backpacks may experience delays entering the building. We recommend leaving heavy bags and backpacks at home, since your visit will involve a lot of walking.

REMINDER Outside food is not permitted in the Aquarium buildings. A limited number of small lockers are available, but there is no room to store lunches or coolers in bulk. Please arrange with your bus driver to store lunches on the bus or to eat before you enter the building. There are picnic tables, benches and grassy areas for your group to eat outside. In case of inclement weather, please have a backup plan as there is no space inside the building for groups to eat.

TEACHER CHECKLISTS

Pre-trip Planning

Please review this checklist to make sure you are prepared for your Aquarium field trip.

- Coordinate the field trip with your school.
- Arrange bus transportation.
- Order Aquarium box lunches. (Remember that outside lunches may not be brought into the Aquarium.)
- Order souvenir kits or Aquadopt an animal.
- Copy and distribute the Chaperone Expectations and Teaching Tips and Scavenger Hunt pages to your chaperones, and review this information with them. Provide your chaperones with a contact list of cell phone numbers in case of emergencies, lost students or medical situations.
- Review Aquarium Visitor Guide Map. (to download, visit aqua.org/map.html).
- Attend a FREE Teacher Orientation.

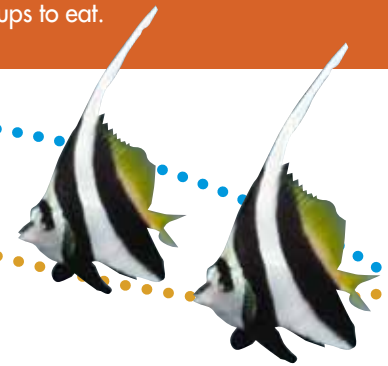
- Complete the classroom activities in the Teacher Booklets (to download, visit aqua.org/teachers).
- Prepare students for the Aquarium field trip.
- Check online resources.
- Copy and distribute the Parents' Aquarium Guide for students to take home to their parents.
- Please remind your students to wear appropriate footwear. Soft rubber soled shoes such as Crocs, flip flops or open-toe shoes pose a safety threat on escalators. Encourage student to wear sneakers or close-toed shoes.

Day of Arrival

Have this with you to help make your check-in process and visit go smoothly.

- Plan to arrive 20 minutes before your scheduled entry time.
- Report to the "Will Call" window on the green side of the Ticket Center.

- Let your group know where and when to meet for shows (Dolphin Show, 4-D) and box lunch orders.
- Establish a meeting place for emergencies and for when it is time to leave.
- Provide your chaperones with the Chaperone Expectations and Teaching Tips, Scavenger Hunt and a phone contact list. A Visitor Guide Map is available at the Information Desk.
- Arrange a pickup time with your bus driver.
- Review behavior expectations with students.
- Remind students to stay safe on the escalators and follow guidelines.
- Make sure students properly dispose of their trash and recyclables. Receptacles can be found throughout the building, in all cafes and outside of the Aquarium.



CHAPERONE EXPECTATIONS

Tips for Being a Great Chaperone

You play an important part in making this trip to the National Aquarium an educational success and a safe, memorable experience for the students. Being a chaperone can be challenging, but very rewarding. We hope reviewing these expectations will make your task easier and more enjoyable.

As a Chaperone, You Have Several Roles:

You are the leader of your small group of students. Know which students are in your group. Keep them together. The tour route in the Pier 3 Pavilion is one way, so it's very difficult to go back to find stragglers. Be sure you know where and when to meet at the end of your visit.

If you and your students must leave the building and plan to re-enter at a later time, chaperones only (not students) may get their hands stamped at any of the exits prior to leaving. After you leave, stay together. Students will not be allowed to re-enter the Aquarium without a chaperone.

You help students learn.

Ask the teacher about the educational goals for the trip. Find out if students have a Scavenger Hunt, special project or worksheet to complete. Ask if the teacher has information that will allow you to help the students complete their task.

You are responsible for the behavior of your group.

Go over these few simple rules with your group before entering the building:

1. Chaperones must stay with their students at all times! Students will not be admitted into shows without chaperones.
2. For animal safety reasons, drinks, food, gum and balloons are not allowed in the Aquarium buildings. You can purchase food and drinks in the Aquarium Cafes. Food and drinks must be consumed before entering the galleries.

3. Please limit or eliminate the use of your cell phone so you can focus on your group. Carry the contact list of cell phone numbers (provided by your group leader) with you in case of emergencies, lost students or medical situations.
4. Respect other visitors at the Aquarium by not allowing running or shouting anywhere in the building.
5. Did you know that sound travels through water? That's why we ask visitors not to tap on the glass and disturb the marine life.
6. If students have a Scavenger Hunt or worksheet to fill out, please supply a clipboard and secure a pencil to the clipboard with a string. The exhibit glass and display panels will scratch if students place papers up against them while writing.
7. Undisciplined or unchaperoned groups will be asked to leave the Aquarium.



TEACHING TIPS FOR CHAPERONES

While exploring the Aquarium galleries, help your students learn about the Aquarium animals and how they live. Here are some easy ways to focus your group's attention.

Ask thought-provoking questions.

Stop at an exhibit that isn't crowded and ask students to compare different animals. Examine mouths, fins shells or appendages. Observe how fish behave. How do they move? Do all fish swim the same way? How do you think they protect themselves? Use the graphic panels and identification labels to give you ideas for good questions. Finding the correct answer is not as important as thinking creatively about the question.

Watch for interesting behaviors.

Ask the students to look for feeding, aggressive interactions courtship or territorial behaviors.

Guess where some of the animals got their common names.

Why is it called a horseshoe crab? Or a butterflyfish? The common names are located on the identification labels.

Involve all the students in your group.

Wait for answers. Do not worry if some students take what seems like a long time to answer. Do not let one or two especially eager students receive all of the attention.

Use the trained exhibit guides.

Look for Aquarium staff wearing uniforms. They are happy to answer questions or assist in any way.

Attend an animal demonstration.

Refer to the "Today at the Aquarium" digital message boards throughout the Aquarium or inquire at the Information Desk about scheduled animal demonstrations. Staff give informative talks during these sessions, and students may be able to ask questions following the program.

NOTE Please copy this information and distribute to each chaperone who will be attending the field trip. Chaperones are important to the field trip and are expected to adhere to these guidelines.

SOUVENIR BAGS

To save time during your field trip, the Aquarium Shop is pleased to offer school group kits to pre-order for your students so they have a memorable souvenir from their field trip.

Choose from two kit options!

Colors and styles may vary.

\$4* Kit includes:

- 24 oz. Water Bottle
- Pencil
- Eraser
- 6" Ruler



\$7* Kit includes:

- Drawstring Backpack
- Extra Long Pencil
- Popper
- Eraser
- 6" Ruler



*This price excludes Maryland State sales tax. If your school or group is tax-exempt, you must present a copy of the tax-exempt card at the time of payment.

REMINDER Chaperones must accompany their students while in the Aquarium Shop! Please allow time (average of 30 minutes) for shopping and checkout.

Easy to Order

Visit aqua.org/teachers to download the Souvenir Kit form. You can fax the form to 443-573-0851 or e-mail the form to NAIBStore@EventNetwork.com. You can also call at least one week prior to your arrival. Please call 443-573-0850 (main store office number) with the following information:

- school name
- contact name and phone number
- visit date
- quantity of order

When you arrive, please stop by the Aquarium Shop (Level 1, Glass Pavilion, top of the escalators) to pick up the Souvenir Kits.

You may pay with cash, credit card or check (payable to Event Network). We cannot accept orders with less than one week's notice.

NOTE Many schools choose to pay for the pre-ordered souvenir bags when they first arrive, then have the Aquarium Shop keep them in the back until the group is ready to leave.

BOX LUNCH PROGRAM

The National Aquarium's Sodexo Food Service is pleased to offer box lunches for your group outing. Please follow these directions carefully when placing your order.

Ordering Instructions

1. View and download the menu at aqua.org/teachers. Fax to 410-659-0294 or e-mail as an attachment to boxlunch@aquarium.org.
2. Orders must be placed at least five business days in advance of your visit. There will be a 15 percent late fee for orders received without five days notice.
3. Cancellations with less than 24-hour notice may be subject to full charge. Special orders cannot be canceled without charge.
4. Box lunches will be served in the Food Court located in the Pier 4 Pavilion (Ground Level) during your designated time. Seating is not guaranteed.
5. Groups that are tax-exempt in the State of Maryland must mail or fax a copy of their tax-exempt certificate with the order. If a copy of your certificate is not received, we are required to charge the state tax.
6. Orders may be paid for by cash, credit card, or check (payable to Sodexo, Inc.) at the time of pickup.
7. Invoices must be signed and faxed to Sodexo, 410-659-0294 at least five business days in advance of your arrival.

AQUADOPT

Here's a fun way to educate students about aquatic life while demonstrating care for the environment. By Aquadopting one of the Aquarium's animals for your classroom, you can support the care and feeding of a dolphin, shark, frog, stingray, puffin, octopus or turtle.

Select from two packages:

- Option 1:** \$50 Receive a personalized certificate, bumper sticker, keepsake photograph and animal fact sheet.
- Option 2:** \$100 All of the above plus a plush animal and recognition in the Aquarium's annual report.

Call 410-576-8840 or go online at aqua.org/aquadopt to Aquadopt your animal today!

VISIT
AQUA.ORG/TEACHERS
TO DOWNLOAD
ORDER FORM!

VISIT
AQUA.ORG/TEACHERS
TO DOWNLOAD
ORDER FORM!

PARENTS' AQUARIUM GUIDE

Ever asked your child what he/she saw after a field trip and received the response "I don't know?" This guide will help you understand your child's field trip to the National Aquarium's Baltimore venue so that you can prepare him/her for an adventure worth talking about at home.

What Will My Child See and Do?

After your child, chaperones and teachers have checked in, they will enter the large Glass Pavilion with *Allegheny Cascades*, an exhibit representing western Maryland, containing native fish species, and boasting a 35-foot-tall waterfall. The next stop is *Animal Planet Australia: Wild Extremes*, which introduces students to the Australian outback. Encourage your child to "look up, down and all around." Your child will learn about species that have adapted to this harsh environment, such as the grey-headed flying fox, pig-nosed turtle, laughing kookaburra and freshwater crocodile.

In the Pier 3 Pavilion, your child will "travel" through several ecosystems, from *Maryland: Mountains to Sea* to the *Upland Tropical Rain Forest*. This is an opportunity for your child to see the unique environmental adaptations of many different organisms. The *Atlantic Coral Reef* and *Open Ocean* exhibits allow children to safely experience the thrill of underwater diving with tropical fish and sharks.

Your child will cross a pedestrian bridge to the Pier 4 Pavilion. In *Jellies Invasion: Oceans Out of Balance*, your child will marvel at nine beautiful species of jelly as they drift through specially-designed, state-of-the-art exhibits. Your child can see *Our Ocean Planet*, the dolphin show which entertains visitors and educates them on the conservation of this playful mammal and our world's oceans. All children will be able to view the dolphins from the underwater viewing area.

Engage Your Child Before the Trip

- Remind your child that it's great to ask questions.
- Ask your child to make predictions about what he/she might see at the Aquarium.
- Practice being patient. Sometimes animals are shy, so if you are quiet and still, they

may swim out from hiding and show themselves.

Ask Your Child After the Trip

- What did you learn today? How can you use this knowledge at school and at home?
- What was the most interesting animal you saw today? Have them explain what it looked like, where it lives and what it eats. If your child doesn't remember, use the "Animals" section of aqua.org to learn more.
- What can we do to help the animals like the ones living at the Aquarium? Come up with a plan to help conserve at home in order to save the Chesapeake Bay.

Family Time

Now that your child has experienced the wonders of the Aquarium, participate together in activities that can help you carry the knowledge of conservation into your home.

Conservation Home Assessment

How well does your family conserve energy at home? Find out how the Aquarium helps the environment and how you can do your part by visiting aqua.org/conservation.

Make a Craft Together: Ocean Diorama

Materials: Paper (card stock or thick paper works best); small box like an old shoebox; crayons, markers, or colored pencils; tape; yarn; optional materials: glitter, pipe cleaners, plastic sea creatures or scuba divers.

Instructions:

- Decorate your small box to look like an underwater habitat. Color in rocks, coral, seaweed, scuba divers, submarines, etc.
- Draw your animals on the paper, color and cut out. You can use the online coloring books at nationalgeographic.com/coloringbook/archive to find pictures of whales, sharks, dolphins and turtles to add to your scene.
- Use the yarn to suspend the sea animals from the top of the box to make them look as though they are swimming.

Books the Whole Family Can Enjoy

- *The Salamander Room* by Anne Mazer
- *The Shaman's Apprentice: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest* by Lynne Cherry and Mark J. Plotkin
- *A House for Hermit Crab* by Eric Carle
- *The Marine Biology Coloring Book, Second Edition* by Thomas Niesen
- *A Hot Planet Needs Cool Kids: Understanding Climate Change and What You Can Do About It*, by Julie Hall and Sarah Lane
- *Why Should I Recycle?, Why Should I Protect Nature?, Why Should I Save Energy?* all by Jen Green
- *All the Way to the Ocean*, by Joel Harper

Websites

- National Aquarium: aqua.org
- Animal Planet: animal.discovery.com
- Endangered Species: endangeredspecies.com
- Environmental Protection Agency: epa.gov/kids/
- Chesapeake Bay Program: chesapeakebay.net/bayfun.aspx?menuitem=14590

Hints for Future Aquarium Visits

- Visit aqua.org to find the best times to visit, hours, directions, discounts and dining options.
- Buy your tickets in advance! Order online at aqua.org/buytickets.html. (There is a service charge for online orders.)
- Plan your trip with the Online Trip Planner at aqua.org.
- Take advantage of discounts like Fridays After Five, Dollar Days and other special programs. Visit aqua.org to find out when you can take advantage of these discounts.
- Become a member. Avoid check-in crowds, enjoy unlimited admission that usually pays for itself in two visits and receive discounts on shops and programs.

OVER.....▶

GUÍA DEL ACUARIO PARA PADRES

¿Alguna vez, después de realizar una excursión educativa, le preguntó a su hijo qué había visto y recibió un “No sé” como respuesta? Esta guía le ayudará a saber más sobre la excursión educativa que realizará su hijo al Acuario Nacional de Baltimore, de manera que pueda prepararlo para una aventura de la cual valdrá la pena hablar en casa.

¿Qué verá y hará mi hijo?

Después de que el niño haya ingresado junto con los maestros y acompañantes, entrarán en el gran Pabellón vidriado (Glass Pavilion) donde se encuentran las cascadas *Allegheny Cascades*, una exposición que representa el oeste de Maryland, que contiene especies nativas de peces y exhibe una cascada de 35 pies (10, 60 m) de alto. La parada siguiente es la galería Animal Planet Australia: Extremos salvajes (*Animal Planet Australia: Wild Extremes*), que presenta a los estudiantes el interior de Australia. Enséñele a su hijo que “mire para arriba, para abajo y por todos lados”. Aprenderá sobre las especies que se adaptaron a este clima riguroso, como el zorro volador de cabeza gris, la tortuga nariz de cerdo, la cucaburra sonriente y el cocodrilo de agua dulce.

En el Pabellón del muelle 3 (Pier 3 Pavilion), su hijo “viajará” por varios ecosistemas de Maryland: de las montañas al mar y a la selva tropical de las tierras altas. Esta es una oportunidad para que su hijo vea las adaptaciones únicas que sufrieron muchos organismos diferentes. Las exposiciones arrecife de coral del Océano Atlántico y del océano abierto le permitirán experimentar la emoción de bucear entre peces tropicales y tiburones.

Después su hijo cruzará un puente peatonal hasta el Pabellón del muelle 4 (Pier 4 Pavilion). En Invasión de medusas: el desequilibrio de los océanos (*Jellies Invasion: Oceans Out of Balance*), se quedará maravillado con las nueve hermosas especies de medusas mientras navega por las modernas exhibiciones especialmente diseñadas. Su hijo podrá ver Nuestro planeta oceánico (*Our Ocean Planet*), el show de delfines que entretiene a los visitantes y los educa acerca de la protección de este mamífero juguetón y de los océanos de nuestro planeta. Todos los niños podrán ver los delfines desde el mirador submarino.

Prepare a su hijo antes de la excursión

- Recuérdale que está muy bien hacer preguntas.

- Pídale que se imagine qué podría ver en el Acuario.
- Enséñele a ser paciente. A veces los animales son tímidos, de modo que si los visitantes se quedan quietos y en silencio, es posible que salgan de su escondite y se dejen ver.

Hágale preguntas a su hijo después de la excursión

- ¿Qué aprendiste hoy? ¿De qué manera puedes utilizar ese conocimiento en la escuela o en casa?
- ¿Cuál es el animal más interesante que viste hoy? Pídale que le explique cómo es, dónde vive y qué come. Si el niño no lo recuerda, utilice la sección “Animales” (Animals) de aqua.org para obtener más información.
- ¿Qué podemos hacer para ayudar a animales como los que viven en el Acuario? Cree un plan de conservación en el hogar para salvar la Bahía Chesapeake.

Tiempo con la familia

Ahora que su hijo experimentó las maravillas del Acuario, participen juntos en actividades que le ayuden a llevar a su hogar los conocimientos acerca de conservación.

Evaluación de conservación ambiental en el hogar

¿Hasta qué punto su familia ahorra energía? Conozca cómo el Acuario ayuda al medio ambiente y cómo usted puede colaborar en el sitio aqua.org/conservation.

Hagan un trabajo manual juntos: Maqueta del océano

Materiales: papel (lo mejor es cartulina o papel grueso); una caja pequeña, como una caja de zapatos pequeña; crayones, marcadores o lápices de colores; cinta; hilo; materiales opcionales: brillantina, limpiapipas, animales marinos o buzos de plástico.

Instrucciones:

- Decore la caja de modo que se parezca al hábitat submarino. Pinte rocas, corales, algas marinas, buzos, submarinos, etc.
- Dibuje los animales en papel, píntelos y recórtelos. También puede recurrir a los libros para pintar disponibles en línea en nationalgeographic.com/coloringbook/ archive para buscar fotos de ballenas, tiburones, delfines y tortugas para agregarle a su decorado.

- Utilice el hilo para colgar los animales marinos de la parte superior de la caja, de modo que parezca que están nadando.

Libros que toda la familia disfrutará

- *The Salamander Room*, de Anne Mazer
- *The Shaman's Apprentice: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest*, de Lynne Cherry y Mark J. Plotkin
- *A House for Hermit Crab*, de Eric Carle
- *The Marine Biology Coloring Book*, segunda edición, de Thomas Niesen
- *A Hot Planet Needs Cool Kids: Understanding Climate Change and What You Can Do About It*, de Julie Hall y Sarah Lane
- *Why Should I Recycle?, Why Should I Protect Nature?, Why Should I Save Energy?*, todos de Jen Green
- *All the Way to the Ocean*, de Joel Harper

Páginas web

- Acuario Nacional: aqua.org
- Animal Planet: animal.discovery.com
- Especies en peligro: endangeredspecies.com
- Agencia de Protección Ambiental: epa.gov/kids/
- Programa Chesapeake Bay: chesapeakebay.net/bayfun.aspx?menuItem=14590

Consejos para las próximas visitas al acuario

- Visite aqua.org para averiguar el mejor momento para venir, horarios, instrucciones, descuentos y opciones gastronómicas.
- ¡Compre sus entradas por anticipado! Solicítelas en línea en aqua.org/buytickets.html. (Este servicio se abona.)
- Planifique su visita con el Planificador de excursiones en línea (Online Trip Planner) en aqua.org.
- Aproveche los descuentos como los ofrecidos por Viernes después de las 5 (Fridays After Five) y Días a un dólar (Dollar Days) y otros programas especiales. Visite aqua.org para saber cuándo puede aprovecharlos.
- Hágase miembro. Evite las muchedumbres al ingresar, disfrute de la entrada ilimitada que, por lo general, se recupera en dos visitas y reciba descuentos en negocios y programas.