



THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

BATHROOMS

Our facility only has two bathrooms for school group use. The best time to use them is during the gallery exploration, so as to not miss any curriculum. There are also public restrooms on the North side of the pier, just around the corner from the Aquarium, and also on top of the pier closer to Pacific Park, and by the playground south of the pier. Due to our field trip and public programs schedule, we unfortunately cannot let a school group inside to use our bathrooms outside of their field trip time.

SNACKS & LUNCHES

Eating areas include marine-themed tables and benches on the Pier deck directly above the Aquarium, or picnic on a grassy hillside, near the palm trees just south of the Aquarium. Groups are also welcome to picnic on the beach, or at the tables at the chess park (south of the pier). If you are planning to bring a picnic lunch, please remember to recycle whenever possible and dispose of all lunch trash properly. Also encourage students to pack an environmentally friendly lunch to minimize the trash generated. There are many snack stands on the Pier and boardwalk where groups can purchase food and drinks.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

You can expect to go out to the beach for the field portion of your trip as scheduled unless there is a steady rain or thunder. If there is a steady rain, the beach portion of the trip will be adapted for either the Aquarium, or outside under a covered area. **The aquarium is typically completely booked and we cannot honor requests for field trips to be cancelled or rescheduled due to rain. Refunds will not be given if a school chooses to cancel their reservation.**

CHAPERONE EXPECTATIONS

Chaperones are expected to help facilitate the field trip by helping students stay together and listening to instructions. For some of the curriculum, chaperones might be needed to join groups of students to help with activity after introduced by staff. Social conversations can be distracting, especially with the level of noise in our classroom, and will be asked to be held outside. We encourage taking pictures (without flash), but please hold off while staff is giving an introduction or talking about rules.



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO...

We want our visitors to be prepared for beach exploration. Please wear comfortable clothes. The weather can range from cool and foggy to hot and sunny. Dress warmly and in layers.

For maximum comfort consider wearing/bringing the following:

1. Long pants can be rolled up, or wear shorts in hot weather.
2. A sweatshirt, sweater, windbreaker or jacket, with t-shirt underneath.
3. Closed-toe shoes. Water shoes or an old pair of tennis shoes that can get wet and sandy are best.
4. Hat
5. Sunscreen
6. Sunglasses
7. Reusable water bottle or juice
8. Snacks or lunch: Please pack your food in environmentally friendly containers, i.e. minimize pre-packaged goods, pack food in reusable containers.



TYPICAL FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

We meet the group outside of the aquarium for a quick introduction of who we are, what are we doing today, and the rules and expectations of the students and chaperones.

Then we go inside to explore the gallery. After gallery exploration, if you have a larger group (30+), we split it into two groups, half goes into the classroom to learn their program topic through an activity, and half will explore the environment on the beach, and then switch halfway through at about 40 minutes. If it's a smaller group, everyone can stay together to explore the gallery, then move into the classroom, then outside to the beach.

General Timeline for Morning Field Trips (Elementary students)

9:50-10:10am Check-In and Introduction

- Meet with staff outside in front of Aquarium to go over details of field trip. Staff welcomes students, introduces activities for the trip, sets expectations and rules.

10:00-10:20am Gallery Exploration

- Check out our animals, investigate the touch tanks, gently touch biofacts in the laboratory.

10:20-11:00am Classroom Investigation

- Hands-on STEM based science lessons based on program topic.

11:00-11:45am Beach Exploration

- Search for animals and clues of life on the beach, increasing environmental literacy.
- Learn about pollution and how it gets here and effects the ocean, and solutions to prevent it.

11:45-12:00pm Wrap-Up

- Review what was learned and what solutions students will take back with them.
- Empty sand from shoes, grab belongings, sanitize hands, and fill out teacher evaluation.