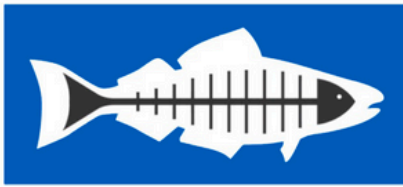


# Take Your Students to the BEACH!

## KEY TO THE SEA



where your classroom meets the ocean

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Professional Development

To participate in the Key to the Sea program, teachers must first reserve a field trip at one of our partnered aquarium facilities. Before their reservation date, all participating teachers must attend a professional development workshop, during which you will be given a multi-disciplinary, standards-aligned curriculum guide as well as supplies to implement lessons back in the classroom. Teachers will increase their climate literacy, are trained to utilize provided curricula & tools - with a served lunch! After completing Workshops I and II, you become a Veteran Teacher and do not need to attend any more workshops in order to be a part of Key to the Sea, though you are welcome to.

### Workshop I

- For K-5 teachers who are participating in Key to the Sea for the first time.
- Covers watersheds, local marine life, marine conservation, and more.
- Includes a supply-filled tote bag and curriculum notebook!

### Workshop II

- For K-5 teachers who completed Workshop I and did Key to the Sea before.
- Topics include habitats and adaptations, pollution and plastic and more.
- Includes "make-and-take" teaching tools, curriculum folder, and a t-shirt!

### Beach Exploration Field Trip

The heart of the Key to the Sea program for your students is a field trip to a local aquarium and beach. The field trip is designed to encourage students to use their senses to observe the environment around them, and includes:

- Guided Beach Exploration: Search in the sand for ocean artifacts and discuss our connection to this habitat
- Bird Detectives: Use binoculars to identify shore birds and their adaptations.
- Fatal Food Relay: Learn about pollution and how to help while playing an interactive, educational game.

### Are You Registered?

#### 1. Reserve your field trip at one of our 2 partner aquaria.

A confirmed field trip date is required before you can sign-up for a workshop. Make sure you request the Key to the Sea program!

#### 2. Sign-Up for a Workshop or as a Veteran Teacher

All teachers must participate in either Workshop 1 or 2 before the date of their field trip, or soon thereafter.

#### 3. Provide Feedback

After participating, please fill out the evaluation form. This helps to secure future funding and to improve the program.

Questions? Contact:

Robert Ramos

P: 310-393-6149 x 203

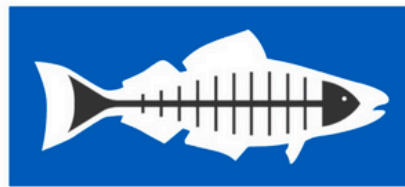
E: rramos@healthebay.org

**For more information, Aquarium contacts, registration links, and evaluation form please visit: <https://healthebay.org/key-to-the-sea/>**

\*Note: Some field trip locations may have additional costs. Please refer to the Field Trip Options page. Buses are not provided; however, some funding may be available.

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### **Bathrooms**

Heal the Bay Aquarium 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.

### What Should I Wear?

#### **1. Long Pants; Shorts**

Long pants can be rolled up, or wear shorts in hot weather

#### **2. Windbreaker; Jacket**

A sweatshirt or sweater are also good options for cold weather attire

#### **3. Closed-Toe Shoes**

Heavy equipment may be handled by staff while visiting the aquarium; Good outdoor protection also

#### **4. Sun Protection**

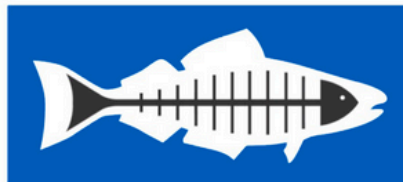
Hats, sunscreen, & sunglasses will protect skin and eyes while visiting Santa Monica

#### **5. Food & Water**

Snacks or Lunch:  
Please note - we do not allow food or beverages to be consumed on-premise during a field trip

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### Field Trip Itinerary

School groups are met outside of the aquarium for a quick introduction to staff, a review of the day's activities, and the rules and expectations of the students and chaperones during the trip. We then go inside to explore the gallery, where we house hundreds of local marine species. After gallery exploration, if you have a larger group (30+), we split it into two groups and all head down to the Santa Monica Beach. Half of the group plays our Fatal Foods Relay game, while the other engages in a guided Beach Exploration. After about 30 minutes, both groups switch activities. Finally, if time allows, both groups recombine and all students participate in our Bird Detectives activity. Once complete, all students return to the aquarium to wash up, collect their belongings, and head out. A typical field trip schedule has been provided below:

### Field Trip Schedule

Time Allotted	Description
Arrival (15 minutes)	Students arrive, place items on carts, & ED Team delivers intro; Students split into two groups.
Beach Activities (30 minutes)	Student groups will participate in either Fatal Food Relay or Beach Exploration; Bird Detectives (if time allots)
Swap (30 minutes)	Each student group will swap activities
Aquarium (30 minutes)	Full group explores our aquarium gallery
Departure (15 minutes)	Students gather belongings, faculty collects lunches, ED Team delivers farewell; Teacher Survey

### Aquarium Rules:

#### 1. Two-Finger Touch

Please use two fingers to gently touch the animals; All animals must remain in their tank.

#### 2. Walk, Don't Run

To ensure safety, please walk while within our aquarium; Water may cause slips.

#### 3. Speak, Don't Shout

Fish can hear! Please speak softly so as to not scare the animals; Echoes can be unpleasant!

#### 4. Respect Each Other

Please use kind language when addressing peers, teachers/aides, & aquarium staff; Please & Thank You!

#### 5. Food & Water

Snacks or Lunch: Please note - we do not allow food or beverages to be consumed on-premise during a field trip.

\*Note: Exact itinerary and schedule subject to change, depending on time constraints or lateness\*