

North Carolina Aquarium at Ft. Fisher 2007-2008



TEACHER FIELD TRIP INFORMATION GUIDE

FOR ALL SCHOOL GROUPS AND HOME SCHOOLS

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There is no admission charge for pre-registered North Carolina schools. This includes all students and teachers (including teacher assistants). ALL parent chaperones will be charged a \$4.00 admission fee.

Schools must pre-register or admittance may be denied due to building capacity. Out-of-state school groups will be charged a discounted group rate.

At this time, NC School groups are defined as follows:

- Private registered and public pre-schools and kindergartens
- Public and private elementary and secondary schools
- Community and technical colleges
- Public and private colleges and universities
- Charter schools
- Home schools

F O R N C R E G I S T E R E D H O M E S C H O O L S O N L Y

- Registered North Carolina home schools are admitted free for a self-guided tour only from Monday – Friday, ONCE A YEAR. This includes children in a home school family and two adults only.
- State-issued home school cards must be presented upon check-in with Visitor Services.
- Home school groups consisting of different families must arrange to arrive at the same time. Late-comers without their home school card will be charged regular admission.

S E L F - G U I D E D T O U R S

April and May have close to 800 – 1000 students visiting a day. In order to ensure a quality experience for your students, we have established the following school guidelines.

Grades Pre-K – K are recommended to visit in the fall and winter months (up to late March).

Grades 7th – 12th are recommended to visit on Monday and Tuesday.

Grades 1st – 6th are recommended to visit on Wednesday through Friday.

Pre-registration is required for free admission, self-guided tours, and special activity programs. Any school that wishes to schedule an afternoon visit (1 pm or later) can register to arrive on any day of the week. Schools that schedule a fee-based special activity program must attend on days of program availability. Pre-registration is required for self-guided tours and special activity programs.

Expect to wait about 30 minutes before you begin your tour. This is for a short orientation by Aquarium Security and restroom time.

Self-guided tours should take one hour.

North Carolina Aquarium at Ft. Fisher ° 900 Loggerhead Rd. ° Kure Beach, NC 28449
www.ncaquariums.com ° Phone: 910-458-7468 ° Fax: 910-458-8464

Schools must pre-register or admittance may be denied due to building capacity. Out-of-state school groups will be charged a discounted group rate.

The aquarium accepts reservations for self-guided tours on a first come, first served basis. You may be asked to visit on a different day; please list several days of field trip availability. Please consider visiting the aquarium in the fall and winter months.

You will receive a confirmation packet once your self-guided tour has been scheduled and your date and time secured. This packet will contain information necessary for easy check-in.

FREE PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

DAILY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Daily aquarium programs are appropriate for all ages and groups. No reservations are required for these programs and attendance is first come, first served. Each program runs approximately 20 minutes. We may be able to tailor a free program for your group. Just please let us know in advance!

○ **DIALOG WITH A DIVER**

Observe divers in the ocean tanks as they go about their daily tasks. With the help of an aquarium educator, the divers will answer your questions while they work.

Times: 10:30 am, 2:30 pm

○ **CREATURE FEATURE**

Although our tanks provide many opportunities to view aquatic life, here's a chance to learn about selected animals up close and personal. From whelks and crabs to turtles and alligators -- all are lively encounters you're sure to enjoy.

Times: 11:30 am

○ **OCEAN ODYSSEY**

So much to learn, so much to see! Join an aquarium educator to discover fascinating facts about our watery world. Dress up like a shark, touch a turtle shell or test your ocean knowledge.

Times: 1:30 pm

○ **ANIMAL FEEDING TIME**

Observe the behavior of animals being fed at the aquarium each day. An educator is on hand to answer questions and offer insights.

Times: 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

○ **TOUCH TANK TALKS**

Learn more about creatures living in the rocky coquina outcrop as an educator describes characteristics that make each of these animals unique. Students may have the opportunity to touch some of the tank residents.

○ **AUDITORIUM FILMS**

Films are shown in the auditorium up to four times a day. The auditorium can hold up to 150 people at one time. Check our daily schedule for film topics when you check-in.

OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

Outdoor programs are available seasonally. Programs and times are set to cater to group needs. All reservations are first come, first served. Outdoor programs are weather dependent.

○ **SALT MARSH & CRABBING**

Hike the salt marsh and view the activities of marsh-dwelling animals and the variety of plants found in this rich environment. This hands-on program introduces participants to the fun of catching blue crabs.

Activities include: Studying the biology of crustaceans, making a blue crab lure, learning about bait, exploring a shrub thicket, pulling a seine net or dip net through the salt marsh, and discovering the importance of dunes, marsh grasses, and food webs.

Suggested grade levels: 2nd – University.

Program length: 2 hours.

Cost: \$8 per student

Program restrictions: Minimum of 10, maximum of 60 participants at one time.

Seasonal availability: April 1st – September 30th.

○ **SALT MARSH EXPLORATION**

North Carolina has over 3,000 acres of salt marsh. Hike the salt marsh and discover animals and plants found in this rich environment.

Activities include: Exploring a shrub thicket, pulling a seine net or dip net through the salt marsh, and discovering the importance of dunes, marsh grasses, and food webs.

Suggested grade levels: 2nd – University

Program length: 1 ½ hours.

Cost: \$7 per student

Program restrictions: Minimum of 10, maximum of 60 participants at one time.

Seasonal availability: March 1st – November 30th.

○ **SURF FISHING**

Learn the art and practice of saltwater fishing.

Activities include: Knot tying, rod and reel maintenance, bait tips, and basic, hands-on fishing techniques (casting, net casting).

Suggested grade level: 6th – University

Program length: 3 hours

Cost: \$12 per student

Program restrictions: Minimum of 10, maximum of 20 participants at one time.

Seasonal availability: March 1st – November 30th.

○ **THE FT. FISHER HERMIT SCHOOL OF COMMON SENSE**

Have you ever heard about the Ft. Fisher Hermit? Maybe you were lucky enough to meet him. Join aquarium staff to watch an award winning documentary, entitled “The Fort Fisher Hermit: The Life & Death of Robert E. Harrill.” Then take a walk in the Hermit’s footsteps out through the marsh to the bunker where he lived. Learn how the Hermit lived in the marsh surviving largely on plants and animals. Test your own skills catching and releasing food from the marsh.

Activities include: Watching a documentary, crabbing, seining, and hiking.

Suggested grade level: 7th – University

Program length: 2 1/2 hours

Cost: \$10 per student

Program restrictions: Maximum of 60 participants.

Seasonal: March 1st – November 30th .

○ **CANOEING THE SALT MARSH**

Explore Zeke’s Island Estuarine Research Reserve by canoe. Participants should be able to swim and be capable of sustained physical exertion.

Activities include: Canoeing, crabbing, clamming, seining, or birding.

Suggested grade level: 7th – University

Program length: 3 hours

Cost: \$20 per student

Program restrictions: Maximum of 15 participants.

Seasonal: June 1st – October 31st .

○ **ROCKY OUTCROP EXPLORATION**

Explore the only natural rock outcrop on the North Carolina coast and discover the marvelous marine invertebrates that live in this dynamic habitat.

Suggested grade level: 4th – University

Program length: 1 ½ hours

Cost: \$10 per participant

Program restrictions: Minimum of 10, maximum of 20 participants at one time.

This program has to be scheduled for a low tide. Times and dates will vary.

OUTDOOR GUIDELINES

We want your special program with us to be educational as well as fun. These guidelines are written for everyone's best interest. Please follow them carefully for your safety.

- All outdoor programs are weather dependent. Therefore, we reserve the right to cancel a program due to inclement weather. In the event of program cancellation due to weather an alternative indoor program may be offered.
- All participants **MUST** wear a type of lace-up or closed toe shoe. Water shoes are acceptable. No flip-flops or sandals will be allowed. There are sharp shells hidden in the marsh mud.
- Be prepared with insect repellent, sunscreen, and water.
- Live animals and plants **MAY NOT** be taken from the field trip site(s).
- Close adherence to your Special Activities instructor is very important: we do not want the fragile environments of these program sites to be damaged or disturbed in any way. Aquarium instructors have the right to cancel a program due to improper conduct by participants during an outdoor program.

ANIMAL PROGRAMS

ALL OF THESE PROGRAMS ARE GEARED FOR A GROUP'S AGE LEVEL AND NEEDS

○ **REPTILES-R-US**

Learn about the habits and habitats of various reptiles in the Cape Fear Region. Alligators, turtles, or snakes will be highlighted.

Suggested Grade Level: 1st – University.

Program length: 1 hour.

Cost: \$4 per student

Program restrictions: Minimum of 10, maximum of 150 at one time.

○ **INVERTEBRATE INTERVIEW**

Uncover the hidden world of clams, snails, crabs, sea urchins, sea stars, and other invertebrates. Learn what makes a coral an animal, where the eyes of a starfish are located, how an urchin gets around, and much more!

Suggested Grade Level: 1st – University.

Program length: 1 hour

Cost: \$4 per student

Program restrictions: Minimum of 10, maximum of 150 at one time.

○ **SHARKS: INSIDE AND OUT**

Learn the characteristics of sharks in this interactive presentation on shark anatomy and behavior. Discover how sharks swim, how they get along without bones, and how they replace their teeth! **This program includes a costume activity for elementary grades.*

Suggested grade level: 1st – University

Program length: 1 hour

Cost: \$4 per student

Program restrictions: Minimum of 10, maximum of 150 at one time.

○ **WHALES AND DOLPHINS**

How do we compare to some of the largest animals on Earth? What is the difference between a dolphin and a porpoise? Learn the answers to these questions and more in this fun, interactive program highlighting the whales and dolphins that frequent North Carolina's coast.

Suggested grade level: 2nd – University

Program length: 1 hour

Cost: \$4 per student

Program restrictions: Minimum of 10, maximum of 150 at one time.

○ **CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY TIME**

Creatures come alive in this story telling and critter-creating program. Special craft is included with each program. Some programs include live animals.

Suggested grade level: Pre-K – 1st

Program length: 1 hour

Cost: \$5 per student

Program restrictions: Minimum of 10, maximum of 25 at one time.

Topic selections: Spiny-skinned animals, Animals with Tentacles, Whales and Dolphins, Crabs and other Crustaceans, Amphibians, Turtles, Reptiles, Sharks, Skates and Rays, and Shell Makers.

○ **BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR**

Join staff on a behind-the-scenes tour, and see what it is like to be responsible for the aquarium's critters. This tour will take you places that many guests never have a chance to see.

Suggested grade level: 6th - University

Program length: 1 hour

Cost: \$7 per student

Program restrictions: Minimum of 10, maximum of 15 at one time.

CRAFT PROGRAMS

ALL OF THESE PROGRAMS ARE GEARED FOR A GROUP'S AGE LEVEL AND NEEDS.

○ **NATURE CRAFTS: GYOTAKU**

Learn Gyotaku, the ancient art form of Japanese fish printing. Discover the history behind this craft and make a Gyotaku T-shirt to take home. *All supplies, smocks, and shirts are provided.*

Suggested grade level: K – University

Program length: 1 hour

Cost: \$12 per student.

Program restrictions: Minimum of 10, maximum of 25 at one time.

○ **NATURE CRAFTS: STAMP PAINTING**

Create your very own incredible, wearable T-shirt with easy to use stamps in fun Marine-life shapes. *All supplies, smocks, and shirts provided.*

Suggested grade level: Pre-K – K

Program length: 1 hour.

Cost: \$12 per student.

Program restrictions: Minimum of 10, maximum of 25 at one time.

○ **NATURE CRAFTS: SAND PAINTING**

Participants will learn the history behind this craft and create their own masterpiece using sand. All materials are provided.

Suggested grade level: 1st – University

Program length: 1 hour

Cost: \$6 per student.

Program restrictions: Minimum of 10, maximum of 25 at one time.

○ **NATURE CRAFTS: SHELL PICTURE FRAMES**

Use nature's own creations to fashion a keepsake picture frame. Frame size is 5 x 7.

Suggested grade level: 5th – University

Program length: 1 ½ hours

Cost: \$15 per student

Program restrictions: Minimum of 10, maximum of 20 at one time.

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○ **NATURE CRAFTS: NATURE SILHOUETTES**

Participants learn to take a closer look at the nature we have around us. Then, using nature's own designs, create their own Aquarium t-shirt. T-shirts are provided with the program price.

Suggested grade level: 3rd – University

Program length: 1 ½ hours

Cost: \$12 per student

Program restrictions: Minimum of 10, maximum of 20 at one time.

○ **NATURE CRAFTS: NATURE PAPER**

Paper can be natural...learn to how to make it: It's fun, easy, and saves some trees! Education staff guides you through the process of recycling used paper to create new Nature Paper. With a bit of creativity and some help from nature, participants make their own beautiful pages. Your paper will be acid-free and can be used for journaling, stationary, scrapbooking, or any other project.

Suggested grade level: 1st – University

Program length: 1 ½ hours

Cost: \$5 per student

Program restrictions: Minimum of 10, maximum of 15 at one time.

OUTREACH PROGRAM INFORMATION

Let the Aquarium be your favorite teaching tool!

Planning a trip to the Aquarium? Our Outreaches are a great way to increase your students' educational experience with the NC Aquariums. Sign up to have us come out to your classroom before or after your field trip. Can't make it to the Aquarium? Let us bring the Aquarium to you!

Aquarium Outreaches add a little excitement to your lessons and help you meet North Carolina state science requirements! Our programs are a great way to introduce, conclude, or just add variety to your lessons.

We offer programs with live animals, activities, costumes, and biofacts such as bones and sea turtle shells. Each program is adapted to fit your school's needs.

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Preschool

Our programs for ages 3-5 are fun, educational, and adapted to fit those with short attention spans. Live animals, costumes, props, and activities bring a lot of fun to your classroom. We have four programs that work well in preschools: *Hermit Crab's Friends*, *Turtle Tales*, *The Frog Prince*, *Shark Attack*, and *Scaly Survivors*. Please visit us at www.aquariumoutreach.com for program descriptions.

Elementary School Teachers

We have a variety of programs that are appropriate for your classroom. Our animal programs; *The Wonder of Whales*, *Shark Attack*, *Invertebrate Interview*, *Hermit Crab's Friends*, *Turtle Tales*, and *Scaly Survivors* are appropriate for all grade levels. Please visit us online at www.aquariumoutreach.com for descriptions of these programs and the NC Science Requirements they meet.

In addition to our popular animal programs, the following highlighted Outreaches have been designed specifically to fit each grade level's North Carolina state science standards.

Kindergarten

Animal Detectives

This Outreach program meets NC Science Requirements for 2007-8: 1.01, 1.02, 1.03, and 1.05. Students get up close and personal with a variety of live animals. Our animal detectives will search out the similarities and differences between an invertebrate, reptile, amphibian, and mammal.

First Grade

We All Have Needs

This Outreach program meets NC Science Requirements for 2007-8: 1.02, 1.03, 1.04, and 1.05. There are so many different types of plants and animals on Earth! By observing live animals, students discover how we are similar, focusing particularly on the basic needs of all living things.

Second Grade

Do You Hear What I Hear?

This Outreach program meets NC Science Requirements for 2007-8: 1.02, 1.03, 1.04, and 1.05. There are so many different types of plants and animals on Earth! By observing live animals, students discover how we are all similar, focusing particularly on the basic needs of all living things.

The Cycle of Life

This Outreach program meets NC Science Requirements for 2007-8: 1.01 and 1.04. Every animal has a different life cycle. Students investigate the similarities and differences between the human life cycle and those of jellyfish, frogs, sharks, alligators, and whales.

Third Grade

Pollution Solutions

This Outreach program meets NC Science Requirements for 2007-8: 2.01, 2.02, 2.05

Where does all our trash go? Why should we care? Meet one of our native amphibians that need to have a clean, healthy environment. Through a variety of fun activities students learn the benefits of recycling, and how to reduce, reuse, and recycle their waste.

Fourth Grade

The Fight For Survival

This Outreach program meets NC Science Requirements for 2007-8: 1.01, 1.02, 1.03, 1.04, 1.05, 1.06, and 1.07. It's a scary world out there! While participating in a variety of activities, students discuss how animals have adapted and learned certain behaviors to help them survive in the wild. Several characters from the movie "Finding Nemo" help introduce different animal characteristics.

Fifth Grade

Ecosystem Encounter

This Outreach program meets NC Science Requirements for 2007-8: 1.01, 1.02, 1.03, 1.04, 1.05, 1.06, and 1.07. Students weave themselves through amazing ecosystem interactions. Our live animals help prove that, from the smallest critter to the largest creature, everything makes a difference, including us!

Middle and High School Teachers

Aquarium Outreach isn't just for the young! We have Outreach topics that will fit into many of your curriculum needs. Each program is adapted to fit your needs based on age and educational focus. Outreach programs are a great way for secondary teachers to provide unique learning experiences without the cost, hassle, and time constraints of a field trip.

Our current programs available for middle and high school students are on marine invertebrates, dolphins and whales, sharks, reptiles, and turtles. In addition to these programs, we are currently developing Outreach programs on coastal ecosystems, water quality, population dynamics, and pollution.

Please contact the Outreach Coordinator for more information on any of these programs or if you're interested in having us create a program specifically for your curriculum.

Teachers of Students with Special Needs

Aquarium Outreaches are a great way to add some variety to your daily routine. Live animals and appropriate activities bring excitement, fun, and learning to your classroom. Students can touch models,

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shells, stuffed creatures, and, depending on the group, live animals. We adapt our programs to meet the skills and needs of your students.

We have four programs that work well in EC classrooms: *Invertebrate Interview*, *House for Hermit Crab*, *Turtle Tales*, and *Scaly Survivors*.

Details for the Aquarium Outreach Program

- Programs for students who are at least 4 years old last one hour; Outreaches for preschool students younger than 4 years old are 30-45 minutes long.
- Maximum of 30 students per program; Preschool programs have a maximum of 20 students.
- Program Fees: \$100 for one program, \$40 for each additional presentation of the same program on the same day.
- Travel Fees apply to locations outside of New Hanover County

Visit us online at www.aquariumoutreach.com for more information on our programs. To schedule an Outreach, please contact the Outreach Coordinator at Dee.Thonnard@ncmail.net or 910-458-8257 ext. 236. Please keep in mind that Outreach programs often keep us on the road. We will respond to your inquiries as soon as possible.

AQUARIUM RULES & PARKING GUIDELINES

- Aquarium staff reserves the right to ask a group to leave. If this should occur, your school's principal will be contacted.
- Upon arrival, school buses should pull up to the circular drive in front of the main building.
- Students should remain on the bus until greeted by an aquarium staff member.
- Aquarium Security will direct buses to parking after everyone has safely disembarked.
- Bus engines must remain off while the bus is parked.
- Chaperones need to arrive with the school group.
- Children who accompany chaperones but are not part of the field trip class will need to pay full youth admission and full program fees. Youth (6-17) \$5, children 5 & under are free.
- Teachers and chaperones must remain with their assigned students at all times.
- Picnic tables are available on a first come, first serve basis. They are not covered.

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REGISTRATION FORM

2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR

Teacher's Name

School Name and Address

School Phone ()	Teacher's Email
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Grade Level	Student Number	Teacher Number (including aides)	Parent Chaperone Number <i>If unknown, please estimate.</i>
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Date(s) Requested

Time of Arrival	Time of Departure
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Programs Requested

- Self-Guided Tour
- Special Activity Program *(Please list all selections below.)*

Please return this application to:

Attn: Samantha Herbert (ncaff.registrar@ncmail.net)
 School Group Registration
 North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher
 900 Loggerhead Rd.
 Kure Beach, NC 28449
 Fax: 910-458-8464

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Sharkbites Snack Bar - Group Meal Plans

Sharkbites Snack Bar is the Aquarium's on-site food outdoor facility. Orders may be faxed using this order form to 919-573-9601. For questions please call 866-301-3476 ext. 249 or email us at sharkbites@etrig.net.

Advantages of Eating at the Aquarium

- Saves time that can be spent at the Aquarium.
- No lines, fast and prompt service.
- Your group does not have to leave the Aquarium.
- Supports the *North Carolina Aquarium Society*.

Meal Plans Available

Package A: Ham and cheese, chips, Rice Krispy treat, & juice box drink.

Package B: Turkey sandwich (on wheat), chips, Rice Krispy treat, & juice box drink.

Package C: Pimento Cheese sandwich, chips, Rice Krispy treat, & juice box drink.

Package D: Bologna and cheese, chips, Rice Krispy treat, & juice box drink.

All packages are \$4.25 with tax included. One small Colombo soft serve frozen yogurt can be added to any package for \$1.50. Condiments are furnished.

In our effort to reduce the fat intake by school groups ordering meals, Sharkbites does not offer hot dogs under the meal plan. However, hot dogs are available to the general public. Teachers and parent chaperones can order hot dogs on an individual basis but not as part of the meal deal packages.

Soft serve frozen yogurt without a meal plan will be sold based on menu pricing. There will be a 10% discount for groups of 10+ that just want soft serve yogurt without a meal plan.

Requirements:

- Need five business days notice.
- Need a *guaranteed* number of people.

Coordinator Name: _____

Coordinator Phone: _____

School or Group Name: _____

Date of Trip: _____ **Desired Lunch Time:** _____

Meal Packages	Quantity	Price	Total
A: Ham and cheese, chips, Rice Krispy treat, & juice box drink.		\$ 4.25	
B: Turkey sandwich (on wheat), chips, Rice Krispy treat, & juice box drink.		\$ 4.25	
C: Pimento Cheese sandwich, chips, Rice Krispy treat, & juice box drink.		\$ 4.25	
D: Bologna and cheese, chips, Rice Krispy treat, & juice box drink.		\$ 4.25	
E. Vanilla Frozen Yogurt (Colombo brand)		\$ 1.50	
Chocolate Frozen Yogurt (Colombo brand)		\$ 1.50	
All sandwiches are premade/prepackaged. Make checks payable to <i>Sharkbites</i>		TOTAL	\$