

A Living Classroom

INFORMATION FOR AQUARIUM FIELD TRIPS

Use these suggestions to
make your visit a success.



OREGON COAST
AQUARIUM
NEWPORT

Dear Educator,

Welcome to our living classroom. Please use these materials to make your fieldtrip a splashing success.

Before your visit, we suggest you:

- Use the **Ten Steps to a Successful Visit, Highlights at the Aquarium** and **At the Coast–Beyond the Aquarium** to help make your trip a great stress-free learning experience.
- Make a copy of the **Oregon Coast Aquarium Self-Guided Visit Materials** for each child in your class. You can find these on our website at <http://aquarium.org/education/teacher-resources>. Add activities for them to do on their trip to and from the Aquarium. Have them fill them out on the trip. Be sure to bring clipboards for each student.
- Review the enclosed **Be a Great Chaperone** and the **Self-guided Visit Materials**. Make copies for the chaperones to help them familiarize themselves with the Aquarium and some of the animal information. This way they will be more knowledgeable teachers.

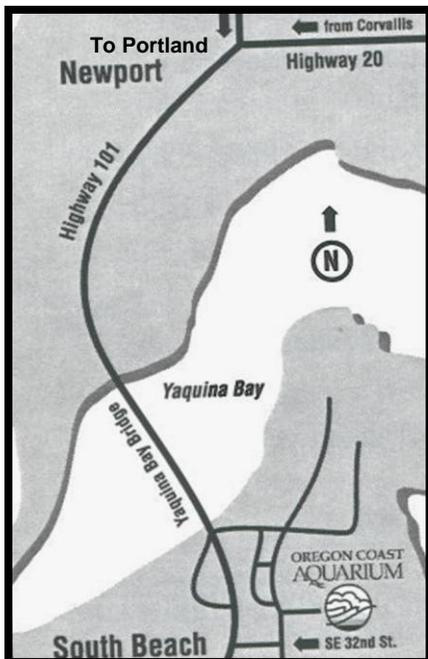
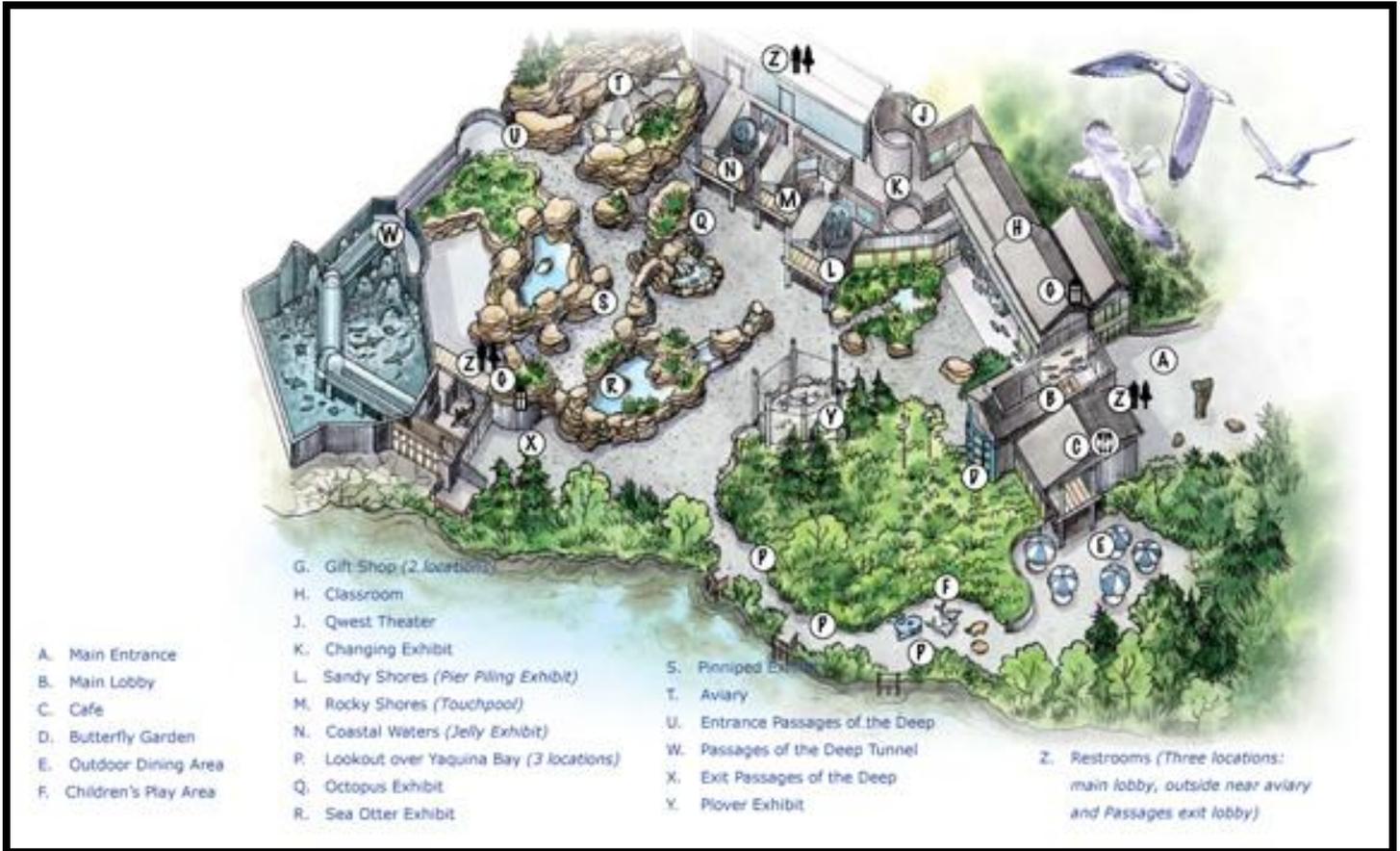
Please bring your signed student and teacher contracts, and your completed confirmation letter.

We hope you have a wonderful time!

Sincerely,

The Oregon Coast Aquarium Education Staff

Oregon Coast Aquarium Map



How to Find Us

If you are traveling from the north, go south on Highway 101 and cross the Yaquina Bay Bridge, ignore the "Oregon Coast Aquarium" sign at the south end of the bridge and proceed one block farther to the traffic signal at 32nd Street. Turn left. (If you are traveling from the south, turn right at the traffic signal at 32nd Street.) Drive one block, turn left on Ferry Slip Road and proceed one block to the Aquarium.

Pull up to the green curb and have passengers remain in the bus or vehicles until the leader of your group enters the Aquarium and makes payment. After unloading, have your bus pull in to the bus/RV parking area (cars or vans may park in the south or north parking lots.)

* Note: Because of construction on many of the highways from the valley to the coast, check ODOT tripcheck before you leave and allow time for traffic blocks.

Ten Steps to a Successful Visit

1. How many chaperones should we bring?

- We recommend (and admit free of charge) one chaperone for every five students, plus one teacher per class.
- **Teachers must participate in K–12 lab programs. We require one chaperone for every five students for K–8 lab programs and one for every ten students for all other visits.**
- Teachers are not counted as chaperones.
- Chaperones must be at least 21 years of age.
- Consider asking the principal or school administrators to be chaperones.

2. What will my chaperones do?

- Chaperones will actively participate in the visit by leading small groups through the Aquarium and, if the class is scheduled for a program, reading information and helping them with activities. Please keep this in mind when selecting chaperones.
- **If your group is participating in a program, teachers will be responsible for making sure your chaperones and their students are on time when meeting their program instructor at least five minutes before the program is scheduled to begin. Chaperones will be expected to read information to the students in English and to lead their group through activities.**
- Give each chaperone a copy of “**Be a Great Chaperone**” and encourage them to read it.
- Assign groups of students to chaperones before your visit. Chaperones must keep their students with them at all times, including during visits to the gift shop and café.

3. How do I use the self-guided activities?

- The self-guided activities that are available on our website are designed based on Oregon state standards and the Ocean Literacy principles. These activities are meant to increase your students’ observation skills and critical thinking while at the Aquarium. Don’t expect a “right” answer. There are adult and youth volunteers throughout the Aquarium that can help your chaperones and students think about and answer these activities.

4. What about name tags?

- Please have your students—even high school students—wear nametags with both the student’s names and your school name. We suggest using self-stick labels or, for younger students, attaching them with string or safety pins. We do not allow straight pins.

- If you or any of your parents prefer not to have the children’s names displayed, have them wear tags with just the school name.

5. What do my students really want to know?

- If you address the creature comforts (what to wear and bring, when and where they will eat lunch, bathroom locations, schedule, and the gift shop) early on, your students will learn more and behave better. The enclosed **Aquarium Map** may help.
- Remember to give chaperones and students a time and place to meet at the end of your visit.
- The Aquarium has both indoor and outdoor exhibits, so come dressed for the possibility of rain, cold, windy weather.
- The Aquarium has limited picnic facilities, available without reservations on a first come, first served basis. Two state parks are located near the Aquarium. (Call the Aquarium at (541) 867-3474, ext. 5301 if you need directions.)
- We do not allow food or drinks to be brought inside the Aquarium.
- Walk-in customers are always welcome at the café. However, groups of ten or more are requested to give advanced notice so the café will have enough staff scheduled to accommodate your group, (541) 867-4171. Food purchased at the café must be eaten in designated areas.

6. Paperwork, paperwork, paperwork

- Be sure to bring your confirmation form and your **Student and Teacher Contracts** with you—you’ll need them both!
- Write on the confirmation form and the actual numbers of students and adults who’ll be entering the Aquarium.
- Read the “**Student Contract**” aloud to all students and chaperones, and then sign it. You will turn it in at the admissions desk.

7. We’re here! What next?

- Follow the signs and pull up beside the green curb.
- Before unloading the bus, the group leader needs to go through the members’ entrance to the desk inside to check in.
- Present your confirmation form, signed “**Student and Teacher Contracts**” and payment, and pick up your **Chaperone and Teacher ID tags**.
- Return to your bus, distribute chaperone tags and guidebooks, get small groups together with their chaperones, and bring the group in through the member’s entrance. If you are scheduled for a program or lab, the admission staff will direct you further.
- If you have two groups participating in programs, one can tour the Aquarium while the other has its program, then they can switch.

8. What happens during our visit?

- Small groups of students, led by their chaperones, will move through the Aquarium. An informal style works best, using questions and observation.
- Volunteers are stationed throughout the Aquarium to answer questions.
- Consider a free Teacher Planning Visit—even if you've visited before, you might want a new perspective. Contact us at 541-867-3474 ext. 5301 to set this up.

9. What if we're signed up for a program?

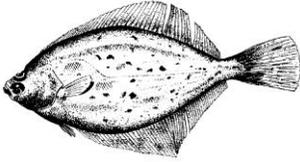
- You will need to arrive at least 15 minutes before program time to complete the admissions process. Allow even more time if your students will need a restroom stop before their program.
- Due to space and schedule constraints, if your group arrives later than 5 minutes after the scheduled check-in time, we may cancel your program. If this happens, you will begin your self-guided tour when you arrive.
- **Your chaperones will be asked to read to your students and help guide them through program activities planned by the Aquarium educators.**

10. Is there anything else?

- Remind chaperones that the Aquarium does not allow additional small children with school groups, and no additional children of any age are permitted in lab and theater programs.
- If you have planned written activities for your visit, please bring clipboards with pencils attached. Writing against walls and exhibits can damage them, and a loose pencil can fall into an exhibit and injure an animal.
- Chaperones and teachers should turn in their tags at the information desk as they leave.
- Preparing students and chaperones beforehand is on big step toward the quality visit that we all want for them.

Highlights at the Oregon Coast Aquarium

Sandy Shores Gallery



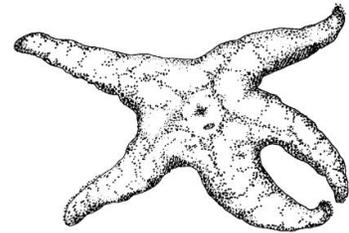
Starry flounder

The centerpiece of this gallery is a freestanding pier pilings exhibit. The 4,730-gallon tank replicates the unique habitat formed by man-made docks and piers. Across the gallery, a cross section of a wave-lapped sandy beach shows animals that live in, on and near the sand.

Animals exhibited in the Sandy Shores Gallery include flatfishes, skates, sea pens, sand dollars and surfperches.

Rocky Shores Gallery

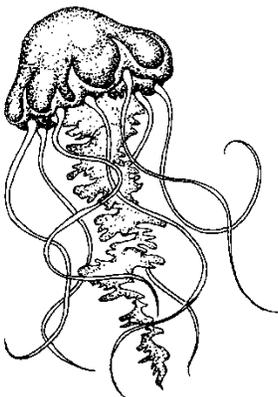
A large touch pool forms the centerpiece of the Rocky Shores Gallery. Staffed by a volunteer, at this exhibit visitors may gently touch tidepool residents, including sea stars, chitons and anemones. Other gallery highlights include a tidepool cutaway raked by waves, and a deep tidepool in which visitors get an opportunity for close-up investigation.



Ochre star

Animals exhibited in the Rocky Shores gallery include Pacific wolf-eels, sculpins, a decorated warbonnet and a wide range of sea stars, anemones and other animals found on the rocky coast.

Coastal Waters Gallery



Sea nettle

Jellyfish provide the centerpiece for the Coastal Waters Gallery, occupying an acrylic cylinder eight feet in diameter. The moon jellies are consistently named by our visitors as one of the most popular animals at the Aquarium. A second jellyfish exhibit features sea nettles. Other gallery highlights include a 5,000-gallon kelp forest harboring small offshore fishes among the bull kelp, and a 9,100-gallon coastal reef exhibit.

“At the Jetty” holds 35,000 gallons of water and is made up of basalt boulders to replicate the Yaquina Bay jetties. Highlights of this exhibit are coho and chinook salmon along with other fishes and invertebrates that are found at the jetty.

Animals exhibited in the Coastal Waters gallery include basket stars, sea cucumbers, ratfish, rockfishes and wide variety of other deep water fishes and invertebrates.

New Currents Changing Exhibits Gallery

Check the Aquarium's website at www.aquarium.org to find out what this space is exhibiting during your visit. Animals exhibited in the past have included snakes, tropical fish, turtles, sharks, rays and frogs.

Outdoor Exhibits

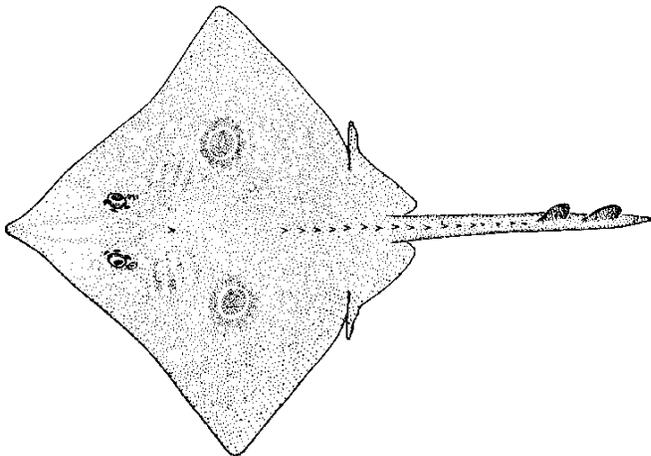
Out in the rocks you'll find a pool with harbor seals and California sea lions; a sea otter pool; a giant Pacific octopus in a cave; and an aviary full of tufted puffins, pigeon guillemots, rhinoceros auklets, common murre and oystercatchers.



Sea otter

Passages of the Deep

Travel through a clear tunnel where you can see seven feet of water both over your head and under your feet while experiencing Orford Reef, Halibut Flats and the Open Sea. In Orford Reef, a kelp forest habitat, you will find bull kelp, rockfishes, wolf-eels and more.



Big skate

The high-light of Halibut Flats, a sandy bottom habitat, is the remains of a sunken ship that provides shelter for many fishes and invertebrates. The sandy bottom community is also home to halibut, skates and rays. The Open Sea simulates an endless ocean environment where you will find sharks, rays, herring and jacks swimming overhead and underfoot.

At the Coast Beyond the Aquarium

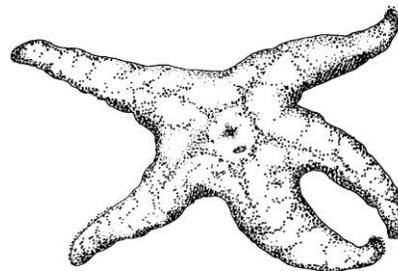
Tips for good tidepooling

- The best time to be at the tide pools is a half hour to an hour before the predicted low tide, so you can go all the way out with the tide and then work your way back in.
- Watch to avoid becoming stranded as the incoming tide surrounds rocks.
- Sneaker waves and sudden crashing waves can be hazardous. Be alert and keep an eye on the water. Don't turn your back to the ocean, even for a moment.
- Be sure to wear sturdy shoes. Rocky shores make for uneven footing, and seaweeds growing on rocks can be dangerously slippery.
- Consider taking binoculars for looking at birds or other marine life out of your reach.
- Tide tables are available at many places of business on the coast, or you can call the Aquarium for tide information at (541) 867-3474, ext. 5301 or visit <http://hmsc.oregonstate.edu/weather/tides/tides.html>.



Tidepool etiquette

- Watch where you put your feet! Try not to walk on animals and plants that live on the rocks and in the tide pools.
- When touching tidepool animals, wet your hands in seawater first. Most tidepool animals have a coating of slime to protect them. Touching them with a dry hand can damage their slime layer and harm their delicate surfaces.
- Moving animals to new surroundings can injure or kill them. Remember, these organisms are alive and adapted to a very specific environment. Taking them home with you will kill them.
- Talk quietly when visiting near seabird colonies; nesting birds are sensitive to noise.
- Leave natural habitats cleaner than you found them. Pick up any refuse or debris you find and dispose of it properly.
- **Organisms in tide pools are protected by law.** The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife sets limits on what you can and cannot collect from tide pools and grants permits for collecting. See Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for further information, or call them at (541) 867-4741.

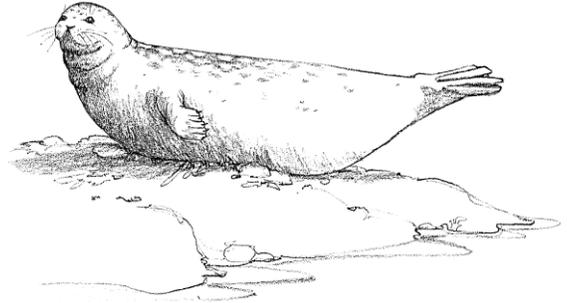


Where to find tide pools

- Otter Rock Marine Gardens, nine miles north of Newport
- Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area (fee charged), at the northern edge of Newport. Some pools are built to be accessible to people with impaired mobility. For further information on visiting the tide pools and the interpretive center and lighthouse or to schedule a visit, call (541) 547-3100.
- Seal Rock State Park, eight miles south of Newport.

Where to see marine mammals

- Harbor seals haul out on offshore rocks at Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area in Newport, Seal Rock and on the sand bars during low tide at Alsea Bay in Waldport.
- Male California sea lions are found on Newport's bayfront during spring months.
- Steller sea lions make their home at the Sea Lion Caves south of Yachats.
- Gray whales pass the Oregon coast from December through January migrating south to Baja California, and again from March through April migrating north to the Bearing Sea. A small gray whale population also spends the summer off the central Oregon coast.
- Orcas (killer whales) are sometimes seen off the coast or in bays, especially in the spring.
- Harbor seal pups sometimes rest on the beaches while their mothers feed at sea. It is against federal law to harass these or other marine mammals by approaching them, touching them or allowing your pets to disturb them.
- To report a marine mammal stranding, call (800) 452-7888.



Where to see seabirds during spring nesting season

- Cascade Head, north of Lincoln City
- Otter Crest, north of Newport
- Yaquina Head, Newport
- Heceta Head, south of Yachats
- Cape Arago and Sunset Bay, near Coos Bay

Alternatives to tidepooling

- Consider alternatives to tidepooling in order to reduce human impact on these complex and vulnerable systems, and to avoid having to schedule field trips around low tides. Perhaps your group could study sand samples from various locations, look for fossils on the beach, have beach scavenger hunt or observe currents and waves.
- Take your students to the Mark O. Hatfield Marine Science Center. For more information visit <http://hmsc.oregonstate.edu/>.

Be a Great Chaperone

You don't need a special knowledge to be a chaperone—just common sense and a willingness to jump in and get involved.

Here are a few tips to help make your trip a good one.

What will I be doing as a chaperone?

- You will supervise a small group of students during the visit to the Aquarium, helping them learn from the exhibits and making sure they behave appropriately.
- You will actively participate in a lab or theater program if the group is signed up for one—ask your group's teacher for details.

What do I need to tell the students about touching the live animals?

- Be sure to touch the animals gently.
- Do not move the animals.
- Follow the guidance of the volunteers and educators.

How can I help students get the most out of their visit?

- Be sure you understand the plan for the day, especially if the group will have a lab or theater program.
- Ask the group's teacher for any material that will help you lead the students through the exhibits and the program.
- Ask the teacher whether the students have specific projects to work on at the Aquarium, and how you can help with them during the visit.

Where can I get more information about an exhibit or animal?

- You will receive a "Self-guided Visit book" from your teacher or ask for one when you enter the Aquarium.
- The Aquarium has volunteer interpreters stationed throughout the exhibits. They'll be happy to answer your questions.
- Your group's teacher has background material on some of the exhibits and animals at the Aquarium.

What will my role be during a lab or theater program?

- If the class is participating in a lab program, you may be asked to read to the students and guide them through program. You may want to ask the teacher for information about the program, including background information and vocabulary words, to familiarize yourself with the topic. The more you are able to interact with the students, the better their lab experience will be.



- If the teacher has scheduled the class for a theater program, your job will be to monitor the behavior of the students you are chaperoning, read information to them in English and enjoy the program with them.

How do I get my group interested in the exhibits?

- There are many techniques. None of them rely on your being an expert—instead, you find out the answers along with your students.
- After viewing an exhibit, ask the students to find out what it eats, how it protects itself and how it relates to plants and animals around it.
- Ask students to compare and contrast two animals.
- Be sure to ask questions of each student in your group. There will always be a few who have all the answers. Encourage the shy or quiet students to share ideas, too.
- When an answer is given, ask the group if they agree or disagree and to explore why.

What are the Aquarium behavior guidelines?

- **Students may not climb on the rocks or run in the exhibits or on the paths.**
- **They may not tap on the exhibit windows, chase or try to handle the birds, or drop items into the water.**
- Yelling and loud talking should be discouraged. It disturbs the animals as well as other visitors.
- Ask the teacher for a copy of the “Student Contract.”

Can the students visit the gift shop and café?

- Your group is welcome as long as they are supervised. Some teachers prefer that their students not visit the gift shop or the café, so be sure and check first.

What else do I need to know?

- Please leave additional small children at home. They are not allowed in lab programs and distract you from your duties as a chaperone.
- Students must stay with you, their chaperone at all times. Their behavior is your responsibility.
- Chewing gum and smoking are not permitted in the building or in the outdoor exhibits.
- If the teacher has planned a written activity, please ask students to write against clipboards, books, or a friend’s back. Writing and leaning on the exhibits can cause permanent damage.
- Be sure you know when and where to meet the rest of your group at the end of the visit.
- Remember to turn in your chaperone tag at the front desk as you leave.

