



DEEP Explorations

Parent Packet

Philosophy

Our education environments are designed to support inclusive and collaborative learning, promote STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) exploration and discovery, and empower explorers to reach their full potential.

Prior to Coming

Please complete your explorer's online registration (including all medical, liability, and photo permission releases) no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday two weeks prior to the week your session begins. Review the important information and guidelines addressed in this letter.

Contact and Emergency Numbers

Explorers may not receive direct phone calls or text messages while in TSA's care. If you need to reach your explorer, or you have an emergency during program hours (9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.), please call or contact TSA Education staff at these numbers:

(361) 881-1204 Becky Ackley, Education Assistant

(361) 881-1252 Katherine Dion, Camp Specialist

(361) 654-1452 Alyce Todd, Director of Education

In case of severe weather, please call Becky Ackley at (361) 881-1204 for instructions on early release, day cancellations and/or change in pick-up locations.

DEEP Explorations Location

Activities, including check-in and check-out, will be conducted at the Texas State Aquarium main campus, located at 2710 N. Shoreline Blvd., Corpus Christi, TX 78402 (adjacent to the Harbor Bridge).

Daily Check-in and Check-out

Check-in and check-out are conducted under the blue tent-tops on the side lawn behind the ticketing booth. In the case of inclement weather, check-in and check-out will be in the Aquarium lobby.

Grades Kindergarten – 8 check-ins daily between 8:45 - 9:00 a.m. Early arrivals will not be signed in until 8:45 a.m. Late arrivals should report to the information desk. Grades 9 – 12, please refer to the Destination STEM FAQs for details on dates and times.

Grades Kindergarten – 8 check-outs daily between 2:45 – 3:00 p.m. Only adults on the Permission List with a VALID PHOTO ID will be allowed to check-out explorers. Please arrive promptly to check-out your explorer. Late fees may be charged for excessively late check-outs. Late arrivals should report to the information desk.

Explorer Dress Code

Please dress your explorer(s) for activities that include getting dirty, creating art projects, conducting science experiments, being active, and enjoying outdoor water play. Activities will take place both inside and outside the Aquarium. Clothing should be appropriate for daily weather and classrooms that can be chilly. Footwear should be comfortable, closed-toe (no sandals, flip-flops, etc.) and fit properly. Please do not dress your explorer in the following: skirts or dresses (unless wearing shorts underneath), open-toed shoes (sandals, flip flops, etc.), or clothing that's too big or too small (this can be a safety hazard during play and activities).

What to Bring

- Water bottle – Explorers will have access to water throughout the day and will be encouraged to refill their bottles or cups.
- Lunch – Lunches should not contain items that require refrigeration or heating, as these options will not be provided.
- Sunscreen and bug spray
- Hat with brim
- Tote bag or backpack

Tuesday – Friday, please also have them bring the following:

- Modest swimsuit
- Towel
- Change of clothing
- Closed toe shoes that can get wet
- Rash guard or t-shirt (optional)

All items should be labeled with the explorer's name. The Aquarium is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Please be sure to check that your explorer has all their belongings at the end of each day. Grades 9 – 12, please refer to the Destination STEM FAQs for details on what to pack for the week.

What Not to Bring

- Electronic devices
- Toys of any kind
- Money to purchase lunch, snacks, beverages, or gift shop items at the Aquarium store, as explorers will not be allowed to shop.

Bullying Policy

To ensure all our explorers have a safe, enjoyable experience, we ask that you share the following information with your child.

Do not to participate in or initiate bullying. DEEP Explorations has a strict no bullying rule; no form of bullying (physical, verbal, etc.) will be tolerated.

Parents will be contacted if bullying does occur and the offending explorer may be asked to leave for the day, and exclusion for the rest of the week may be considered (dependent upon offense and at discretion of staff). Refunds will not be issued if your child is asked to leave due to behavioral issues.

We encourage parents and explorers to report bullying immediately.

Corrective Action and Discipline Policy:

Positive reinforcement approaches and strategies will used to promote and support respectful and positive behaviors. When disruptive or negative behaviors do arise, staff may use the strategies below to address the issue.

- Re-explain and describe expected behaviors and actions during activities, including cause and effect of behaviors and actions
- Model for and directly instruct or guide correct behaviors and actions of explorers
- Discretely speak with explorer about behavior or action, jointly agree on approved/correct behavior expected in future
- Re-direct explorer behavior to positive and appropriate behavior, either in same situation/location or to an alternative place or activity (e.g., instead of not sharing pencils at table, ask explorer to help pick up puppets)
- Stand next to explorer or ask them to sit/stand next to staff

Should additional corrective action be necessary, or if disruptive or negative behaviors persist or accelerate, parents/guardians will be notified during the day or during check-out, and these steps may be taken (as appropriate):

- Removing participation in an activity, or “privilege” (e.g., playing a game or touching an animal)
- Taking a “time out” from activities and spaces by sitting with one of their counselors, or with another counselor/staff, away from fellow explorers
- Contacting parents/guardians for a phone conversation with explorer and/or immediate pick-up of explorer
- Elimination for a day (no refunds will be granted if this occurs)

We respect and understand each child is an individual. We recognize each explorer will respond to and engage in different ways. We aim to provide the most positive and enjoyable environment for all our explorers. If you have specific strategies for communication during tough or emotional moments that work best with your explorer, please share these with staff during check-in. We try to accommodate and include best practices and strategies whenever we are able.

Cancellation/Refund Policy

A refund of 50% of the cost can be accommodated prior to the two-week registration deadline. However, if you decide to withdraw from this program after the two-week deadline, your payment will not be refunded. The success of this program depends on complete participation and payment from all registrants.