



ZZZs Under the Seas

Camp-In Program Leader Packet

Sleep with the sharks at the Texas State Aquarium! Join us for an overnight adventure full of excitement and discovery as your group participates in evening programs and hands-on activities. Each overnight experience includes a bedtime snack and hot breakfast the following morning.

Some exhibits may not be available the night of your camp-in

Before the Event

Please have the following required paperwork ready before you arrive:

- Roster with the names of all people spending the night
- Behavior Agreement signed by all adults (pages 5 & 6 of Leader Packet)
- Signed waiver for each child and adult (page 7 of Leader Packet)

Safety Notice

Your safety is important to us. Please note the following policies to ensure the health of our guests and staff:

- All overnight participants must wear a face mask over the nose and mouth unless eating or sleeping.
- All staff will wear a face mask.
- Groups not living in the same household must sleep 6 feet apart.
- We have decreased our capacity to a maximum of 50 overnight guests.
- We have increased sanitation of high-touch surfaces, and all overnight program materials are sanitized between groups.
- Participants who have been in contact with a positive case of COVID-19 or who are exhibiting symptoms such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath may not attend the overnight.

Program Itinerary (subject to adjustments)

6:30pm Check-in & Welcome

- Please remember to eat dinner before checking in.
- Check-in at main Aquarium doors (up the ramp from parking lot). Group Leader must be present. You may not enter early or without camp-in staff.
- All required paperwork must be turned in before program can begin.
- Welcome by staff with brief orientation and general guidelines

6:45pm Programming

- Explore Aquarium habitats, guided by staff
- Program schedule depends upon several factors: timely arrival, purchase of Creature Feature and/or Diver in the Water experiences, exhibit availability, and weather.
 - Diver in the Water (if booked, scheduled time may vary) 15-20 minutes
 - Creature Feature (if booked, scheduled time may vary) 15-20 minutes
- Chaperones assist by providing support, guiding campers to appropriate areas, and ensuring campers behave safely and respectfully.

7:30 pm Snack

- Options include goldfish, snack mix, fruit snacks, cookies
- Juice

8:00 pm Indoor Programming

- Campers and chaperones will break into smaller groups for facilitated activities with camp-in staff.
- Campers will complete a challenge at the end of the night

10:00pm Prepare for Bed

- Group gathers for night time orientation
- Change, brush teeth, prepare for bed
- Set up sleeping bags in exhibit areas. Staff will guide groups to sleeping areas.
- Participants living in separate households must sleep 6 feet apart or head to foot.
- Chaperones will need to space themselves throughout and at the ends of group.

11:00pm Lights Out

- No use of flashlights or phone lights unless to guide camper to restroom.
- All participants must remain in sleeping area unless using restroom. Campers must be accompanied to the restroom by an adult.

6:15am Wake up & Pack up

- Campers will wake up, pack up sleeping bags, and change for morning.

7:00am Breakfast

- Campers must have all belongings packed and ready for departure prior to eating breakfast.
- Breakfast*
 - Whataburger taquito (sausage, bacon, or potato)
 - Whataburger hash browns
 - Juice
 - Milk
 - Coffee for adults

8:00am Departure from the Aquarium

- Group or individuals from the group may re-enter free of charge when Aquarium opens to the public.

** No outside food or beverages allowed, unless for dietary restrictions or allergies and approved by Aquarium staff. Individuals requiring special dietary items or with dietary allergies should communicate these restrictions to Education Engagement Specialist PRIOR to event. In some cases, alternative food items can be provided (e.g. gluten free snack) and others can be restricted. Food items that cannot be provided by Aquarium will need to be provided by camp group or camper. Alcohol is not allowed onsite.*

General Information and Guidelines

Parking

Parking is permitted in either Aquarium lot. Please be aware the Aquarium cannot be held liable for any damage and/or theft occurring in the parking lots. Be sure to remove all valuables and securely lock vehicles.

Evening Contact

If you need to contact program staff after 5:30 p.m. on the evening of your program, please call 361-215-8658.

Chaperone Role

A minimum of one adult chaperone per ten children is required, and all children must be at least 6 years of age. Chaperones are expected to participate in all programming and ensure that campers follow guidelines in the Behavior Agreement and camp-in staff instructions. Chaperones must remain with their group throughout the night.

What to Bring

- Signed waivers (adults and children) and Behavior Agreement (adults only)
- Face mask
- Closed-toe shoes - *shoes must be worn at all times except when in bed*
- Sleeping bag and pillow
- Sleeping pad or roll*
- Sleepwear
- Toiletries- *shower facilities are not available*
- Reusable water bottle
- Flashlights (Adults only)
- Any medicine must be brought and administered by an adult chaperone and must include the prescription information.
- Electronics are permitted for photo and alarm purposes only. If they become a distraction, Camp-In Staff will request group leader pick them up.

**Contact camp-in staff if someone in your group requires an air mattress for medical reasons. Typically, a limited number can be accommodated with prior notice. Please note that not all exhibit spaces can accommodate air mattresses, and those with air mattresses must follow camp-in staff guidelines for placement.*

Camp-In Participant Behavior Agreement

Instructions

Please review the following behavioral expectations with your group participants -- both children and adults. By signing the bottom of the page, your group is acknowledging and committing to follow all stated behavioral expectations. Please bring this signed copy of the Behavior Agreement with you and turn in to Camp-in Staff during check-in. The Group Leader is responsible for the behavior of the group and must be on site for the duration of the camp-in.

Group Leader Name: _____

School/Organization Name: _____

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

The Texas State Aquarium is a place of learning, fun, and discovery! To make sure that all visitors have a great time at the Aquarium, it is important to abide by these behavioral expectations:

1. Stay with your group. All participants, including adults, should stay with the Camp-In Staff or assigned group for the entirety of the tours and activities and should follow directions of the Camp-In staff. Notify Camp-In Staff if any participants need to leave the group or activity areas for any reason.
2. Please walk at all times.
3. Always be respectful of the Aquarium exhibits and building. Please do not touch the exhibits; they are made of acrylic, not glass, and scratch easily. Please stay on designated pathways.
4. Help care for the animals. Aquarium staff will guide touching experiences to ensure campers and animals remain safe.
5. No outside food or drinks during the event, unless explicitly approved by the Aquarium (e.g. dietary restrictions). Food and drink are not allowed in exhibits spaces.
6. Stay out of restricted areas. Many areas will be off limits or restricted during the camp-in to ensure participants and animals remain safe. These areas include some exhibits, the café, food court, upstairs, offices, and labs.
7. "Lights Out" means lights out. Once campers are settled into the sleeping area and "lights out" has been announced, all participants (adults and children) are required to stay in designated sleeping areas. Flashlights should only be used when escorting a camper to the bathroom and should not be used to observe animals. Exploring other spaces is strictly prohibited during these hours. All children must be escorted by an adult to leave sleeping area.

8. Limited in and out privileges. Exterior doors lock from the outside at 6:00 p.m., and Aquarium staff must be notified and present for any exit and reentry. The Group Leader must notify staff if a participant is leaving for the night.
9. Notify Camp-In Staff of issues or problems. Camp-In Staff is dedicated to the safety, education, and enjoyment of its participants. Please communicate any concerns, questions, or issues with staff as soon as they arise. We will solve the problem as quickly and effectively as we can!

Thank you for your cooperation!

I have shared the Aquarium's behavioral expectations with my entire group and accept responsibility for their conduct in the Texas State Aquarium. I understand that my group may be asked to leave and may be charged for damages if children or adult chaperones fail to comply with these expectations. Please have all adult chaperones sign the agreement.

Please deliver this form to Camp-In Staff upon arrival and check in.

Group Leader Signature: _____ Date: _____

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**WAIVER, RELEASE AND
INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT**



Special Event

The Texas State Aquarium Association, Inc., a Texas non-profit corporation ("TSA"), conducts special events, which could include tours of the facility, and interactions and feedings of aquarium animals. If you would like yourself or your minor to participate in our special events, please complete, sign the reverse side, and return this Waiver, Release and Indemnification Agreement.

The undersigned parties ("the undersigned") hereby consent to participate in our special events and consent, acknowledge, agree and represent to and with TSA, as follows:

1. TSA's personnel are authorized to give appropriate medical consents and authorizations on the undersigned's behalf with respect to any medical emergency or condition in connection with the participation in the special event.
2. The undersigned hereby releases TSA and its respective officers, employees, volunteers, and agents (collectively "the releasees") from any liability to the undersigned, the child, his/her personal representatives, assigns, heirs, and next of kin in respect of any and all damage, loss, or cost, and any and all claims or demands therefore, on account of injury, including death, to the undersigned or otherwise, which results from accident or other occurrence in connection with participation in the special event, whether caused by the negligence of any one or more of the releasees or otherwise.
3. The undersigned shall indemnify and hold harmless each of the releasees from any loss, liability, or claim arising in connection with the participation in the special event, including in connection with any injury or death or other loss or cost arising in connection with the undersigned's participation in the special event, whether caused by the negligence of any one or more of the indemnities or otherwise.
4. The undersigned understand and accept the risks and responsibilities associated with being a participant in the special event, and have been given the opportunity to request further information from TSA personnel regarding those risks.
5. The undersigned agree to accept full financial and legal responsibility for any acts of vandalism or destruction committed by the undersigned.
6. The undersigned have read, understood, and voluntarily signed this waiver, release, and indemnity agreement.
7. The undersigned agree to indemnify and hold each of the releasees harmless from and against any liability, loss, or claim whatsoever, arising by any reason of breach by the undersigned of the foregoing representations and warranties regarding their capacity.
8. If you have allergies: There is a possibility that the undersigned will come into contact with shellfish products. The undersigned assumes full liability for any adverse reactions due to exposure to these allergens.
9. I understand that due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, all overnight participants are required to wear face masks during Texas State Aquarium's overnight event.
10. I acknowledge that the Texas State Aquarium will take reasonable precautions to ensure distancing and sanitation during the course of the event; however, I acknowledge that some COVID-19 risk factors may occur as a result of attending this program.

Participant's full name (please print)

Date

Parent or Guardian name (please print)

Signature (Parent/guardian signature if participant is under 18)