



SeaCamp 2023

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 campers to reach their full potential.

Safety Notice

The health and safety of your camper is of the utmost importance at SeaCamp with the Texas State Aquarium. To ensure the highest standards are being met, all employed staff and volunteers are screened and have successfully passed reference and background checks. All staff members are certified in First Aid/CPR/AED, food handling, and have completed training in child abuse awareness and prevention with TrainRight, Inc. Our staff leading the "Snorkel with the Shark" program are dive or lifeguard certified. Additionally, our team holds experience working with children, developing age-appropriate curriculum, and have extensive training in facility protocols for safety and performance.

Prior to Coming

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

Contact and Emergency Numbers

Campers may not receive direct phone calls or text messages while in TSA's care. If you need to reach your camper, or you have an emergency during program hours (8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.), please call or contact TSA Education staff at these numbers:

- (361) 881-1218 Nicole Gaertner, Education Manager
- (361) 653- 2605, Additional Education Staff

In case of severe weather, please call for instructions on early release, day cancellations and/or change in pick-up locations.

SeaCamp Location

All Camp 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 on the side lawn of the aquarium, behind the ticket booth. In the case of severe weather, check-in and check-out will be in the Aquarium lobby.

All grades check-in daily between 8:30 - 8:40 a.m. Early arrivals will not be signed in until 8:30 a.m. Late arrivals should report to the information desk, inside the main lobby.

All grades check-out daily will be at 3:30 p.m. Only adults on the Permission List with a VALID PHOTO ID will be allowed to check-out campers. Please arrive promptly to check-out your camper. Late fees may be charged for excessively late check-outs. Late arrivals should report to the information desk.

As a reminder, The TSA is not licensed by the state as a child-care facility and will not be offering before or after program care.

Camper Dress Code

Please dress your camper(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 camper 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 – Campers will have access to water throughout the day and will be encouraged to refill their bottles or cups.
- Snacks/Lunch – Snacks (2)/Lunches should be nut free and 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

On Days of Beach or Snorkel (Please check schedule of each grade level for exact dates)

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|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| • Modest swimsuit | • Water shoes or closed toe shoes that can get wet |
| • Towel | • Rash guard or dark colored t-shirt |
| • Change of clothing | • Bag to put wet clothing into |

All items should be labeled with the camper's name. The Aquarium is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Please be sure to check that your camper has all their belongings at the end of each day.

What Not to Bring

- Electronic devices
- Toys of any kind
- **NO CASH.** Money is not permitted to purchase lunch, snacks, beverages, or gift shop items at the Aquarium store, as campers will not be allowed to visit the gift shop.

Bullying Policy

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

Do not to participate in or initiate bullying. SeaCamp 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 camper 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 strongly encourage parents and campers to report bullying immediately.

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 campers
- Contacting parents/guardians for a phone conversation with camper and/or immediate pick-up of camper
- Elimination for a day or more (no refunds will be granted if this occurs)

We respect and understand each child is an individual. We recognize each camper will respond to and engage in different ways. We aim to provide the most positive and enjoyable environment for all our campers. If you have specific strategies for communication during tough or emotional moments that work best with your camper, please share these with staff during check-in. We try to accommodate and include best practices 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 deadline, your payment will not be refunded.