OVERNIGHT GUIDE
SNOOZE & CRUISE
OCEAN COLLECTIONS

VIRGINIA AQUARIUM
& MARINE SCIENCE CENTER
General Information

**Arrival**
Please arrive promptly at 7:00 p.m. for check-in. Doors will remain locked prior to 7:00 p.m. and guests will not be able to enter. Please enter through the Members’ entrance. This door is found under the blue canopy to the left of the Main entrance. Upon entry, children and adults will be directed to the gear staging area. The group leader should be prepared to turn in the completed *Roster and Agreement Form*, found in this packet, at time of check-in.

**Chaperones**
The Virginia Aquarium does not have a required child to adult ratio. However, adult chaperones are held responsible for child behavior. Please ensure a sufficient number of adults to chaperone children.

**Parking**
All vehicles may be parked in the parking lot in front of the Bay & Ocean Pavilion. There is no charge for parking.

**Things to Bring to the Overnight**
The following items are suggested for your overnight stay. There is a packing list included in this guide that may be distributed to your Troop in preparation for the overnight.

1) **Sleeping Bag** – Everyone should bring a sleeping bag to sleep in. A sleeping mat is recommended for extra comfort, as you will be sleeping directly on the exhibit floor. Mats may not exceed 32” x 78”.
2) **Sleepwear** – The Aquarium is climate-controlled, but can become chilly at night. In addition, a sleeping mask may be appropriate if you are sensitive to light while you sleep, as lighting in the exhibit areas is different than at home. Keep in mind that everyone will be sleeping in the exhibit areas where there is little privacy. Appropriate sleepwear (sweats / pajamas) is required.
3) **Clothing** – A change of clothes, including a jacket, is recommended for the following day and boat trip.
4) **Toiletries** – The Aquarium does not have showers available for use. Wet wipes, a toothbrush, toothpaste, and other personal hygiene items should be considered.
5) **Optional Items** – The following items are optional, but may come in handy.
   - Pillow
   - Pen/Pencil
   - Paper/Notebook
   - Blanket
   - Camera
   - Flashlight – Flashlights are not to be shined into Aquarium Exhibits.

**Medical Information**
Group leaders are responsible for all medical situations with their group members. Group members should report any medical issues to their group leader or chaperones. In the event of a medical emergency, group leaders and chaperones should notify Aquarium security staff. There is a First Aid Kit available, if needed.

**Meals**
Dinner is not served during the overnight program. Please ensure all members have eaten dinner prior to arrival. A snack will be provided during the overnight, and breakfast will be served the following morning.

**Departure and Aquarium Visit**
All groups should have their gear to their cars no later than 8:30 a.m. Admission to the Aquarium for the following day is included in the overnight price. Please feel free to tour the Aquarium on your own when the exhibits open at 9:00 a.m. Hand stamps will be provided at breakfast for Aquarium admission that day.
Overnight Packing List

- Sleeping Bag
- Sleeping mat or pad (no larger than 32” x 78”)
- Sleepwear
  - Appropriate pajamas or sweats
  - Sleep mask and/or ear plugs (optional)
- Toiletries (Note: Showers are NOT available)
  - Toothbrush
  - Toothpaste
  - Personal Hygiene Items
- Change of clothes (optional)
  - Layers for Ocean Collections Boat Trip
- Pillow (optional)
- Pen/Pencil (optional)
- Paper/Notebook (optional)
- Blanket (optional)
- Camera (optional)
- Flashlight (optional)
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Frequently Asked Questions

**Overnight Registration Questions**

1. **How do I register for an overnight? Can I add guests to my reservation?**
   
   Please contact the Youth Programs Team regarding registration (757-385-0278). Please be prepared with:
   - Date of the overnight you would like to reserve (See [www.virginiaaquarium.com](http://www.virginiaaquarium.com) for current dates).
   - Number of scout and adult spaces you would like to reserve.
     - *Because of the popularity of these overnight events, we can accommodate reservations for scouts and chaperones only. Please make other arrangements for non-scout siblings.*
   - A method of paying 25% deposit fee

   Once the event is sold out, no additional guests can be registered. If space is still available, additional guests can be added to a reservation up to 14 days prior to the event.

2. **What is the cost?**

   The cost for the overnight is charged at $65.00 per scout (5-17 years old) and $45.00 per adult (18+).

3. **How much is the deposit?**

   25% of the total cost for your group is due at the time of reservation.

4. **When are final payments and Certificates of Liability Insurance for the overnight due?**

   Final Payments and Certificates of Liability Insurance are due 30 days prior to the overnight.

5. **What forms of payment do you accept?**

   We accept the following payment methods:
   - Personal Check *
   - Money Order *
   - Cashier’s Check *
   - Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover

   * Payable to Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center.
   ** Returned checks will be charged an additional fee.

6. **What is the refund policy?**

   The Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center reserves the right to cancel an overnight program at any time. If your overnight program is cancelled, you will be notified, and a full refund will be issued.

   **Group Refund Policy**

   To receive a full refund for your group, cancellation must be made at least 60 days prior to your overnight date. A refund of 50 percent will be given if your cancellation is received 30 days or more prior to your overnight date. **Refunds are not made for cancellations less than 30 days prior to your overnight date.**

   **Individual Refund Policy**

   Refunds will not be given for individual cancellations within your group. If an individual in your group cancels, it is the responsibility of the group to find a replacement.

7. **Is there an age restriction for overnight programs?**

   Due to the content of the program and the nature of the sleeping arrangements, all participants must be at least 5 years old at the time of the overnight program.
Frequently Asked Questions

Overnight Program Questions

1. **What time does the event start?**
   Check-in begins at 7:00. Guests that arrive early will not be able to enter the building until 7:00 p.m.

2. **May I arrive late?**
   Check-in for the overnight begins promptly at 7:00 p.m., please be on time. If a late arrival is unavoidable, please contact Aquarium Security at 757-385-0333. Security will contact overnight staff and we will attempt to accommodate your group to the best of our ability.

3. **What will we be doing during the overnight?**
   The Virginia Aquarium’s overnight programs will consist of games and activities, opportunities to meet live animals, and an opportunity to sleep next to some amazing creatures. The following morning, you will join our educators on an exciting 75 minute Ocean Collections Boat tour of Owl’s Creek.

4. **What will we be doing on the Ocean Collections Boat Trip?**
   This 75 minute cruise with Aquarium educators will venture into Owl’s Creek to collect a variety of local fish and marine invertebrates and observe them up close aboard the boat. Watch as they work the trawl net and pull up discoveries that may include seahorses, stingrays, blue crabs, keyhole urchins, and jellies, and then release the animals back into the ocean.

5. **What should we wear for the Ocean Collections Boat Trip?**
   As the temperatures & weather conditions are often different on the water, we suggest wearing layers for comfort, outerwear such as hats/gloves, and shoes with no-slip soles that provide traction. Sunglasses & sunscreen are also recommended for bright days.

6. **What time is the Ocean Collections Boat Trip?**
   Due to a limit on the number of individuals we can accommodate on the boat, we will have two 75 minute Ocean Collections Boat trips, departing at 7:30 am and 9:00 am. Participants should arrive at the boat dock no later than 15 minutes prior to their scheduled trip. Groups will be assigned to a boat trip time upon receipt of the final Roster and Agreement Form. Breakfast will be available before the boat trip from 6:30 – 8:30 am.

7. **What if there is bad weather the morning of our Ocean Collections Boat Trip?**
   Safety is our priority, and we are vigilant about monitoring the weather conditions. Fortunately, our boats will still be able to explore the creek rain or shine! Precipitation alone does not keep us from conducting trips, so come prepared if rain is in the forecast.

8. **May we leave before 9:00 a.m. the following morning?**
   Yes, guests are allowed to leave at any time. Keep in mind, for the safety of our guests and animals, the doors to the Aquarium will remain locked throughout the duration of the event. Guests that leave the building will not be able to re-enter. Please inform overnight staff or Aquarium Security if you or a guest needs to leave the building and return at a later time.
9. **Where do we store our gear after the program ends?**

   Gear will need to be stored in your vehicles the morning following the overnight no later than 8:30 a.m. Due to space limitations, the Aquarium does not offer a storage location for your group’s gear. The Virginia Aquarium is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items.

10. **Will the Aquarium Store be open during the overnight?**

    No. The Aquarium Store is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily. Please make time to visit the Aquarium Store on the morning after the overnight program.

11. **Can we take pictures inside the Aquarium? What about on the Ocean Collections Boat Trip?**

    Yes, cameras are allowed inside the Aquarium and on our boat trips. Please be mindful of exhibits that prohibit flash photography. Flash photography is not permitted after lights out, and you’ll want to keep a firm grip on your equipment while on the boat trip.

### Overnight Food and Beverages

1. **Do we bring our own food and drinks?**

   No, the Virginia Aquarium’s on-site catering service will provide an evening snack, morning breakfast, and associated beverages for your group. There are water fountains located throughout the Aquarium which are available for your use if you would like to bring a reusable water bottle.

2. **What foods are served for the snack and breakfast?**

   The night snack includes assorted whole fruits, cookies, and chips with lemonade and water to drink. Breakfast includes assorted pastries, mini muffins, and egg and cheese biscuits with milk, apple, and orange juice to drink. Coffee is provided for adults.

3. **My child has food allergies. May I bring something else for him/her to eat?**

   Yes, however we ask for this to be discussed with our staff prior to the evening of the overnight.
• From Interstate 64, take I-264 East towards the Virginia Beach Oceanfront.
• Take Exit 22, Birdneck Road.
• Bear right on exit ramp, merging with Birdneck Road.
• Continue south until you reach General Booth Blvd.
• Turn left onto General Booth Blvd.
• The Bay & Ocean Pavilion is located one mile north on your left.
Leader, Chaperone, & Parent Expectations

- The focus for leaders, chaperones, and parents is to ensure a safe and productive experience for all children in attendance.
- Leaders, chaperones, and parents are expected to keep an eye on children and be prepared to model and enforce behavioral expectations while at the Virginia Aquarium.
- Leaders, chaperones, and parents are encouraged to model respectful behavior; encourage children to investigate and facilitate discussion about what they see and experience.
- In keeping with Aquarium rules, we would remind you that there cannot be any alcohol or use of illegal drugs while at the Virginia Aquarium. In addition, we would caution you to make sure your personal medications are secured to prevent any problem with access by others.
- We encourage you to leave expensive items at home. The Virginia Aquarium is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
- Leaders, chaperones, or parents must accompany children in the Aquarium Store.
- Have Fun!

Child Expectations

- Be courteous and respectful of other visitors. Please walk through the Aquarium.
- No food, drink, or gum is permitted in the Aquarium exhibit areas. Please leave these items at home.
- Use of personal electronic devices is allowed ONLY when it does not interfere with overnight programming or those around you.
- Animals in touch areas/open water may be touched only when staff is present and has given permission.
- For your safety and the safety of our animals, respect the exhibits and animals. Do not climb on or reach into exhibits.
- Do not shine lights in the aquarium or animal exhibits.
- Areas behind closed doors, marked as “Staff”, “Staff Only”, or “Private” are off limits!
- Shoes must be kept on while children are not in their sleeping bags.
- Have Fun!
We have received and read the “Participant Expectations” document. We agree to abide by the behavioral expectations as set forth by that document.

Leader Signature ___________________________ Date ____________

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