EXPERIENCE
Education
AT MYSTIC AQUARIUM
JOIN US IN A UNIQUE CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE WHILE AT MYSTIC AQUARIUM!

- Enjoy fun, active learning with hands-on investigations of live animals and rare biofacts.
- Inspire scientific literacy and inquiry, encouraging students to think critically and creatively.
- Promote interest and understanding of STEM with hands-on applications of science.
- Support Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) including the following applications of 3-Dimensional Learning.

CROSSCUTTING:
- Patterns
- Cause and Effect
- Energy and Matter
- Structure and Function
- Stability and Change

CORE IDEAS:
- All Life: LS1 - LS4
- Earth & Space: ESS2 & ESS3
- Engineering, Technology, & Applications: ETS2

PRACTICES:
- Asking questions & defining problems
- Analyzing & interpreting data
- Engaging in argument from evidence
- Obtaining, evaluating and communicating information

VISIT MYSTIC AQUARIUM

OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMS BRING CONSERVATION & SCIENCE TO LIFE FOR EVERYONE!

Whether you’re with a school, youth group, club or afterschool program, it’s easy to plan fun explorations and investigations of our rich resources!

We offer exhibits and programs that encourage students to observe, ask and discover. These exciting experiences and more are included with admission:

- Rich biodiversity with about 3,500 animals from local habitats and around the globe.
- Personalized learning opportunities with exhibit interpreters, interactive kiosks and intriguing signage.
- Opportunities to get hands-on with animals.
- Narrated animal feeding and training sessions.
- Our popular sea lion show.
- Window viewing of our Animal Rescue Clinic.

CONSERVATION is in our core as we inspire people to care for and protect our ocean planet. The possibilities of how are endless!

EDUCATE 100,000 students annually.

SUPPORT teaching standards and STEM with hands-on applications.

ENGAGE communities in research projects and conservation action.

mysticaquarium.org

100,000 students annually.
We offer many Classroom Programs for each grade level that are summarized below. Class accommodations support a maximum of 30 students, and program lengths vary.

**Grades 1 to 3**

Students observe and construct ideas based on patterns they discover related to the biodiversity and adaptations of animals. Water in many forms is featured through a variety of aquatic habitats. Many class options compare the structures and functions of animals and their young, as well as the behaviors that help them survive. Programs also introduce concepts of how humans apply knowledge and resources from the natural world to create materials and products, as well as how children can make choices that help reduce their impact on our environment.

**Grades 4 to 5**

Students dive deeper into understanding biodiversity and the relationships between living things and their environments, especially how they relate to watersheds and the ocean. Students will construct explanations from evidence that they gather and observe about structural and behavioral adaptations, the flow of energy within and between ecosystems, and solutions to problems that aquatic environments face resulting from overuse of limited resources.

**Grades 6 to 8**

Students use models to describe aquatic phenomena. Specific programs highlight ecology and engage students in evidence-based ideas about aquatic ecosystem dynamics, energy transfer and the interdependent relationships within them. Other classes focus on the processes of adaptation by natural selection and the evidence of common ancestry and biodiversity through patterns that emerge in scientific classification and genetic studies. Through evidence obtained about human impacts on the ocean, students will construct explanations about cause and effect and begin to develop solutions that will help lessen those impacts.

**Grades 9 to 12**

Students will conduct scientific investigations and construct explanations, some with a focus on molecular structures and functions, in order to understand more about the inheritance and variation of traits. Other programs will encourage them to analyze and interpret data about energy flow, ecosystem dynamics and adaptations using detailed evidence of environmental influences in natural selection. Students will also develop possible solutions to help sustain biodiversity so that ecosystem functions and productivity are maintained to support and enhance life on Earth.

**PreK to K**

Mystic Aquarium educators encourage young students to observe the natural world, ask questions, look for patterns and describe needs that animals have to live and grow. They discover sources for those needs along with comparisons to our own. We also reinforce the important concept of cause and effect and how to respect each other and the environment we all share.

**Healthy Lunch Options**

Pre-order low-cost, healthy box lunches for your entire group. You will receive more details upon confirmation of your group admission.

**Custom Programs**

We can work with you and tailor a program to meet your group’s specific needs. Those looking for a more in-depth experience beyond just one class can contact Mystic Aquarium’s Education Department to create an engaging, multi-part program. Activities can take place at the Aquarium, at your location or on the coast! Contact the Education Department today at educationinfo@mysticaquarium.org.

**Guided Aquarium Tour**

Discover the Aquarium’s exhibits and explore behind-the-scenes areas during a personalized tour led by our staff. Group Accommodations: Minimum of 5 people; Maximum of 15 people

**Private Sea Lion Training Session**

Take an inside look at our show, training and the animal care program with our sea lions and their trainers including opportunities for your questions to be answered! Group Accommodations: Minimum of 50 people; Maximum of 400 people

**Unique Theater Options**

Pre-purchase 4-D Theater Experience tickets for half-price with your group reservation! Availability: Times vary throughout the day for 10-minute shows Accommodations: Up to 44 people per show

Enjoy full-length National Geographic Films exclusively shown at museums, zoos and aquariums! Choose from multiple educational films and utilize their corresponding online educational resources. Visit the Animals & Exhibits page of MysticAquarium.org for all show options.

**Visit the Teachers & Schools page of MysticAquarium.org for specific class options.**
Mystic Aquarium Will Visit You

Most programs can travel within 75 miles of Mystic, Connecticut!

TRAVELING CLASSROOM:
Our teachers will bring interactive learning programs to your location. In and out of school, there is something for everyone. Experience the same class presentations as those at the Aquarium but closer to home. We bring science to life in your classroom with standards-based, unique hands-on opportunities. All programs offer personalized experiences and most include animal interactions. Each traveling class is 45 minutes. Group Accommodations: Maximum of 30 students per class.

Visit the Teachers & Schools page of MysticAquarium.org for specific options for each grade.

TRAVELING TOUCH TANK:
Liven up your next meeting, party, fair or conference by including a live, local invertebrate Touch & Learn program. We bring a touch tank of marine invertebrates that may include crabs, lobsters, snails and other shellfish to your function to entertain and educate people of all ages. Touch & Learns are perfect for a larger group that would like this great hands-on opportunity but may not have time for a full presentation. Program Length: Custom to meet your needs.

DISTANCE LEARNING:
For those outside of our travelling range and/or with extremely limited budgets, we can live-stream the Aquarium into your learning space. Arrange a video conference presentation or series of programs tailored to your group’s needs. When applicable to the program topic, a live reptile or invertebrate is incorporated into the program. Mystic Aquarium uses Skype and Zoom for Distance Learning programs. Program Length: 30 – 40 minutes.

Mystic Aquarium Will Visit You

CAREER EXPERIENCES

Countless students are interested in the marine sciences and related fields. These include animal care and training, conservation research, education and all the support positions that are necessary to effectively and creatively operate an aquarium. Engage with Mystic Aquarium to learn about a variety of STEM careers!

CAREER CLASSROOM PROGRAMS
Students in grades 6 to 12 can experience a 45 minute interactive presentation on careers. Include a classroom program at Mystic Aquarium, or reserve Career Explorations for your classes as a Traveling Program.

REGULAR ONSITE CLASSROOM FEES OR TRAVELING PROGRAM FEES APPLY FOR BOTH PROGRAMS.

MARINE BIOLOGY MENTOR SERIES
We are able to offer this authentic option as the alternative to job shadows. This program allows students to gain up to 20 service hours during four different STEM workshops. Each workshop highlights a different career path including unique experiences at the Aquarium.

CAREER EVENTS
Throughout the year, Mystic Aquarium offers opportunities to preview jobs in our field. Visit the Aquarium during these events and learn about the diversity of careers we employ and what knowledge and skills are needed to help us achieve our mission.

INTERNSHIPS
Mystic Aquarium’s intern program is designed to provide college students and college graduates with a dynamic educational opportunity while simultaneously providing career experience. The program runs on a semester basis and combines project research, educational public outreach and work experience in the department of choice; all under the guidance of an Aquarium supervisor.

VOLUNTEERING
Consider gaining valuable work experience as a volunteer! Volunteers must be at least 15 years old and show incredible work ethic by committing to at least six months of service. We also have event volunteers who periodically assist with special activities. Your work as a volunteer will pay you back in many ways with on-the-job training, a friendly work environment and the knowledge that you helped make a difference.

Visit the Teachers & Schools page of MysticAquarium.org for specific options for each grade.
YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

Serving as Mystic Aquarium’s voice for marine conservation among young adults, the Youth Conservation Corps is designed to engage a dedicated group of 14 to 17 year olds in the conservation of local and threatened environments through bimonthly meetings and project participation.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

Students can help gather valuable data that supports conservation research efforts. Mystic Aquarium is a leader in aquatic research, including citizen science projects. Learn how your class can become experts in local marsh restoration, horseshoe crab monitoring, FrogWatch USA, bird counts, International Coastal Cleanup and more!

NEXT STEPS

1 VISIT the Teachers & Schools page of MysticAquarium.org.

2 DECIDE what specific programs and additional options you would like to reserve.

3 SCHEDULE PROGRAMMING as soon as possible for the best availability. Two weeks in advance is required.

4 GATHER YOUR INFORMATION
   • Top three choices for program dates
   • Number of classes/groups, number of students in each, number of chaperones if coming to the Aquarium
   • Grade(s) or age(s) of students in each group
   • Name(s) of the Mystic Aquarium program(s) and option(s)
   • Preferred time(s); if visiting Mystic Aquarium, the arrival time
   • Lead contact information including name, email address and phone
   • Group/school name, mailing address and phone
   Traveling Programs need the address of the program

5 MAKE A RESERVATION ONE OF THREE WAYS
   • Go to MysticAquarium.org: Fun & Learning/Teachers & Schools
   • Email your information to reservations@mysticaquarium.org
   • Call 860-572-5955 x520 and have your information ready

WE LOOK FORWARD TO INSPIRING YOU AND YOUR GROUP!
MORE RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS

Want to stay up-to-date on what’s going on in Education and Conservation at the Aquarium, including special events and discounts? Send your name, school or organization and email contact information to us and register to receive our free education e-newsletter.

EDUCATOR APPRECIATION DAY
Join us in the fall when educators and a guest are admitted free as a thank you for all their hard work and dedication to one of the most important jobs for our future! Register for our education e-newsletter to find out when the next Education Appreciation Day will take place.

MARINE SCIENCE AND TEACHER RESOURCES
If you need additional information and teaching resources related to a marine science topic or to prepare for an Aquarium visit and program, we can help! We also offer teacher professional development workshops. Visit the Educator Resources page at MysticAquarium.org to see available resources.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – MARINE MAMMAL SEMINAR
Continue your education with this weekly 3-credit college course that invites leading scientists from different areas of expertise to discuss the natural history, evolution, anatomy, physiology, husbandry, cognition, behavior and conservation of marine mammals. Current research is emphasized as well as details of policies surrounding marine mammals.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – CONSERVATION SEMINARS
We offer a variety of learning opportunities on important conservation and research topics throughout the year through our Conservation in Action presentation series. As well, if you and your colleagues are interested in a specialized program, please contact the Education Department.

RAISE MONEY FOR YOUR SCHOOL!
We understand that budgets can be tight. One way to easily make money for your school is by joining our Membership Fundraising Program! No limits. No hassle. We will donate money to your school for each referral made. All you need to do is share our information and remember a code! For more information, contact the Membership Office by emailing membership@mysticaquarium.org.

FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS
Generous funders provide the Aquarium with resources to help thousands of students in their regions receive quality programming, which they otherwise could not afford. If you are applying for funding, consider contacting the Education Department to include Mystic Aquarium’s well-respected programming and help strengthen your proposal!

MORE WAYS TO ENGAGE
Visit the Fun & Learning page of MysticAquarium.org for all program details.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES are always a splash. Whether you party with us at Mystic Aquarium, or we bring the party to you, you’ll enjoy meeting and learning about amazing animals.

OVERNIGHTS offer the opportunity to spend the night at Mystic Aquarium for incredibly unique experiences to families. Scouts and 4H clubs after the crowds have gone home.

HOMESCHOOL families can visit the Aquarium and connect with other homeschoolers in two different sessions over the traditional school year. Each session offers one 60 minute hands-on learning program per month, for four months.

CITIZEN SCIENCE directly engages families in valuable conservation and research efforts. We offer several training opportunities throughout the year for various projects like FrogWatch USA and Backyard Bird Count.

We offer exciting learning opportunities for every age, from grandkids to grandparents!

NATURE PLAY encourages interest in science at an early age by taking advantage of a child’s natural curiosity about their world. Join other families to learn about wildlife while digging, building or creating something to bring out the fun of nature!

SEA SCHOOL PRESCHOOL, for kids ages 3 to 5, develops a love of learning in a positive environment with hands-on, nature-based play at the only licensed aquarium preschool in the nation.

SUMMER CAMPS are a Splash of Fun!
SUMMER CAMPS offer a week or more of summer fun to kids, ages 3 to 16, in our American Camp Association accredited camp programs! We offer 10 weeks of programs with multiple options for every age.
The mission of Mystic Aquarium is to inspire people to care for and protect our ocean planet through conservation, education and research.

For more information and to make a reservation, visit the Fun & Learning page of MYSTICAQUARIUM.ORG, call 860-572-5955 ext.520 or email reservations@mysticaquarium.org.