



Mystic Aquarium Private Overnight Information

Thank you for inquiring about our Private Overnight Experience at Mystic Aquarium. Below is additional information on the program but please feel free to reach out to us at educationinfo@mysticaquarium.org or 860-572-5955 ext. 431 at any time with questions.

MAKING A RESERVATION, PAYMENT, and CANCELLATION:

The individual making the reservation is responsible for filling the event with participants. The base fee for this event is \$5,500.00. Your group will purchase an entire overnight that accommodates up to 60 people. Have a larger group? For an additional \$1,375.00, you can increase the maximum number of participants to 75, with a total fee of \$6,875.00.

To book your event, please visit us online at <https://www.mysticaquarium.org/learn/overnights/> or call 860-572-5955 ext. 431.

We do require a \$500.00 deposit at the time of booking. Once the deposit has been paid and confirmed, you will receive an email from the Education & Conservation team with detailed information regarding the program, final payment due date, and a roster template.

Your final payment will be due 4 weeks after you have booked the event. The final payment may be paid by check or with a credit card but please note one final payment is required. If you need more time for final payment, you must contact us for permission.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY:

100% Refund: Cancellation is made 60 days or more before the event date.

75% Refund: Cancellation is made 45 -59 days before the event date.

50% Refund: Cancellation is made 25 – 44 days before the event date,

No refund: Cancellation is made 24 days or less before the event date.

EVENING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM THEMES:

Prior to your program, you will select an Evening Educational Program Theme from the 4 selections below. The left column is the theme and the right column outlines the corresponding programs. Time to explore the Main Gallery and an outdoor tour are included in the evening programming.

Evening Educational Program Themes	Corresponding Programs
Classification	Modified Invertebrate Lab, Squid Dissection, Touch Tank
Habitats	Long Island Exploration, Coral Communities, Touch Tank
Animals	Touch Tank and 2 of the following (you must select 2): Beluga Whales, Penguins, Amazing Sharks, Amphibians in Jeopardy
Careers	Specifically designed for older youth. Career Exploration, Marine Scientist, Touch Tank

WHERE DO WE PARK AND WHAT IS THE COST

Where you will be parking depends on the activity of the Aquarium that evening. For most events, your group will park in the main parking lot of the facility prior to the event at no cost. It is best if everyone parks together in the event of snow in the winter. Mystic Aquarium is a living museum and sometimes we do have to make changes to parking and entry locations to accommodate the need for the main floor by another group. Should this need arise, you will be notified via email and Becky will follow up with a phone call to be sure that you received the email. This does not affect the overnight, our evening programming occurs at the Milne Center, our new education building.



AGES OF ATTENDEES AND CHAPERONE INFORMATION:

Youth must be at least 5 years in age to participate in an overnight experience. Activities are designed for youth ages 5-12. Youth must have adult supervision with a minimum chaperone ratio of 1:5. Chaperones are responsible for the behavior of the youth attending the event. Chaperones must always remain with their group during the event.

GROUP ROSTER INFORMATION:

The overnight purchaser must submit a group roster and final numbers of participants prior to the event to bhirsh@mysticaquarium.org. This roster will include adults and youth. The entire group must be divided into 3 smaller sections of 20 - 25 people or less when participating in educational programming. A template is available for you to use.

ILLNESS INFORMATION:

Please be mindful of the health and safety of other guests and staff attending or working the event. Anyone with visible signs of illness will not be allowed to participate in the program. Please, if you or your youth do not feel well, stay home, and contact your organizer to find a substitute for the event. We know this is disappointing, but it is in the best interest of everyone involved.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE: PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SCHEDULE OF YOUR EXPERIENCE MAY BE ALTERED AS NEEDED

EVENING

6:45 PM – Group arrives at the Aquarium main parking lot (**Eat dinner prior to arriving**).

7:00 PM – Group is screened and checked into the Aquarium. Staff will update roster as needed with substitutions.

7:30 PM – Opening meeting

7:45 PM – Educational programming including the outdoor tour. Each session lasts about 30 minutes.

9:45 PM – Main Floor Fun

10:15 PM – Wrap-up meeting – locate your sleeping area, get ready for bed

10:45 PM – Lights Out

Morning

6:30 AM – Rise and Shine. Pack all your belongings

7:00 AM – Move belongings to your car. You will then be escorted on a morning observation tour of the outdoor exhibits. This is a great photo opportunity for you.

7:30 AM – Breakfast is served after your morning tour. This allows us to space out our guests and reduce the wait time for breakfast. Breakfast may include bacon and eggs, home fries, cereal, muffins, Danish, milk, and juice. Morning coffee is provided with breakfast.

8:15 AM – Morning meeting. Participants receive a patch. Last look at the main floor

8:30 AM – Main Floor Cleared

8:30 AM – Gift Shop Opens

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOUR VISIT:

- Park in the main parking lot of the Aquarium, unless you have been told otherwise. All parking at the Aquarium is free. It is best if everyone parks together in the event of snow in the winter.
- Have your group eat dinner prior to their arrival. We will provide a light evening snack between 7:00pm – 7:15pm and a continental breakfast in the morning.
- During your stay, guests will use the indoor public restrooms. Sorry – no shower facilities are available.
- Should an emergency occur, Mystic Aquarium Staff are well-practiced with the facility's medical and evacuation plan and procedures. Please follow their guidance.
- Groups must remove all belongings from the aquarium by 8:30am following the overnight for the facility to open to the public at 9:00am. Times are subject to change.



- Upon leaving at 8:30am, overnight members will receive a ticket that entitles them to a complimentary re-entry that day between 9:00 and 10:00. This is good only for the individuals who stay the night. It cannot be applied to another day or person.
- **You do NOT need to print out your tickets.** We already have your reservation and your name from the roster provided by the leader. Substitutions should know who they are replacing.

IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER:

Call our Education Program Information Line at **(860) 572-5955 ext 218** for a recorded message regarding the status of your program. The message will include a brief explanation regarding the program. We understand that the weather varies throughout the region, so we make our ultimate decision based on the surrounding area forecast and the consideration for the safety of our guests who are traveling. If Mystic Aquarium should cancel your program, your program fee will be refunded in full. We apologize, as we are unable to offer an alternate date for a weather cancellation. If you have any questions regarding this policy **prior to the day of the event**, please email Becky Hirsh at bhirsh@mysticaquarium.org.

IN THE EVENT OF A LATE ARRIVAL:

Arriving late to the Aquarium? At 7:15pm doors to the facility are shut and locked. Once you arrive, please call our staff at **(860) 625-2104** and a staff member will be out as soon as possible to let you in.

WHAT TO BRING TO YOUR MYSTIC AQUARIUM OVERNIGHT:

Please be sure to label your belongings. Labeled items left behind will be kept for 3 days. Unlabeled items will not be kept. The Mystic Aquarium is not responsible for lost items.

Sleeping Bag and Pillow	Air mattress and pump/Camp cot	Flashlight
Pajamas	Change of clothes	Outer clothing
Toiletries	Refillable Water Bottle	Medical equipment as needed. We do have electricity on the main floor.

DO NOT BRING LIST:

- We ask that no one bring their own food into the Aquarium. A light evening snack and continental breakfast will be provided. *Participants with specific food allergies or food requirements - please feel free to bring what you will need. We do have a fridge.*
- Do not bring video games or other electronics– we are not responsible if they are lost.
- Do not bring chewing gum into the facility.
- The use of alcohol during the event is prohibited.
- No items considered to be a weapon by the staff are allowed into the facility.
- This is a no smoking facility, including E-cigarettes. Smoking is allowed outside the front gates **after** the evening activities have been completed. Staff will escort you to the front gates.
- Please ask youth to not wear roller sneakers.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

educationinfo@mysticaquarium.org

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