



SeaWorld Instructional Field Experience

Group Leader Checklist and FAQs

Thank you for your reservation. The SeaWorld Instructional Field Experience program is a self-guided educational experience that focuses on ocean animals – their habitats, adaptations, and conservation. The program includes two educational animal presentations. Check-in begins at 8:45 a.m. and entry begins at 9:15 a.m. The program ends at approximately 1:15 p.m.

Before your Field Trip:

- Please share *Chaperone Tips and Guidelines* with your teachers and chaperones.
- To ensure your field trip is educational and rewarding for both you and your students, visit www.seaworld.org to access teacher's guides and an extensive animal information database with the latest research and information on marine life.
- Please copy and distribute the Field Experience Booklet as a reference for you and your chaperones during your visit. The guide contains information about animals at SeaWorld and questions to ask your students as they visit the animal habitats. It also contains conservation activities for the students to continue their learning experience once they return to school. We recommend having a copy available to each adult chaperone for them to use while on the trip.

Chaperones are required for all education programs. We require at least one adult for every 10 students and no more than one adult for every three students. Eligible Homeschool and Special Education groups may bring one adult for every one student. (All participants pay the program fee of \$8.) Extra adults over the maximum ratio pay \$25. Because your entire group will enter the park at the same time, it is highly recommended that all adult and student admissions are processed in the same transaction at check-in. If any adults will be paying separately, they may do so at the front gate, but keep in mind that those lines tend to get very long, so it would be beneficial to your group to collect those admission fees in advance and pay at once.

Check-in (day of the program):

- Make sure your entire group has arrived.
- Finalize the total count for your group:
 - Total number of students.
 - Total number of adult chaperones within the maximum 1:3 ratio.
 - Any adults in your reservation above the 1:3 ratio at the \$25 rate

Total Number of Students at \$8.00: _____

Total Number of Teachers/Chaperones at \$8.00: (1 per every 3 students) _____

Extra adults above the ratio at \$25.00: _____

- Only the group leader should check-in the school.
- Please be advised, that payments (checks, credit cards, money orders, or cashier's checks) applied toward a program for a tax-exempt school or organization **will be taxed**, unless the following specifications are met:
 - To qualify as a non-tax purchase, the payment(s) **must** be made *in the name of* the tax-exempt organization/group and have a Texas Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certificate. **All personal checks or credit cards will be taxed.**
 - A money order or cashier's check must have the name of the tax exempt organization/group as remitter of payment (not the individual group leader or teacher).
 - Otherwise, please add **8.25% sales and use tax** to your deposit and/or final payment.
- Maps, schedules, and the Education presentation times and locations will be provided to your group at check-in on the day of your visit.
- Season Passports, discount coupons, and other offers **CANNOT** be applied toward any entrance fees on Instructional Field Experience days. The Instructional Field Experience is entirely separate and supplemental to the SeaWorld San Antonio.

Program Schedule:

- Please follow the schedule:
 - 9:15 – 11:30 – Self-guided visits to animal habitats (Dolphin Cove, Sharks/The Coral Reef, Rocky Point Preserve, The Penguin Encounter, and Flamingo Cove) a gift shop will also be open until 11:30.
 - 11:15 – 11:50 – Lunch at Ski Stadium.
 - 12:05 – Education Presentation at Shamu Theater
 - 12:50 – Education Presentation at Sea Lion, Walrus, and Otter Theater
 - 1:10 -1:30 – Everyone exits the park
- SeaWorld San Antonio will be closed to the general public on your program date. The Water Ski Show, Bay of Play, Aquatica, water rides, roller coasters and restaurants **WILL NOT** be open. Only the park facilities pertinent to the operation of the program will be open.
- Please dress appropriately for the outdoors and forecasted weather. All education programs spend time outdoors and involve a considerable amount of walking. It is highly recommended that you bring water bottles or thermoses for your group so that they will have water throughout the program. There will be opportunity during the program to visit water fountains to refill the bottles. However, please do not bring drinks with straws, as they are hazardous to the animals.

Lunches:

- Pack your lunches together in sturdy, labeled, cardboard boxes. Please label the boxes with your school's name.
- **DO NOT PACK LUNCHES OR DRINKS IN ICE CHESTS, INDIVIDUAL TOTES OR COOLERS.** This way, you won't have to worry about carrying and keeping up with coolers after lunch. For keeping drinks cold, line a box with a couple of plastic trash bags, place the drinks inside and cover with ice.
- For the safety of our animals, please do not bring glass containers or straws.
- Upon arrival, SeaWorld will provide transportation and unrefrigerated storage space for your lunches. However, your group will be responsible for loading and unloading lunches, so pack lightly! **THERE ARE NO PROVISIONS FOR LEFTOVER LUNCHES OR DRINKS.** Please do not take food or drinks into the park after lunch. We are not responsible for lost items.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Can I go over the specified adult to student ratio?

Any additional adults or siblings must pay \$25, and if their admission is not included in the school's payment, they will be taxed.

Are teachers free?

No, teachers, chaperones, and students all pay the same low rate for education programs.

Can we use annual Passes and Fun Cards for the school field trip program or tour fees?

No, Season Passports, discount coupons, and other offers **CANNOT** be applied toward any entrance fees on Instructional Field Experience days. The Instructional Field Experience is entirely separate and supplemental to the SeaWorld San Antonio.

Will we have a tour today?

The SeaWorld Instructional Field Trip program is self-guided. We offer guided animal information tours for an additional fee. Tours must be reserved by group leaders in advance and are subject to availability.

Are rides and shows included on the field trip?

The Instructional Field Trip program focuses on ocean animals – their habitats, adaptations, and conservation. It includes educational animal presentations. Your group may visit any of the animal habitats, however, rides and other shows are not included.

Do we have to pay for parking?

No. Because this is a non-operating day at SeaWorld, parking is free.

Can I reschedule my group's trip?

Please be sure to check your school calendar and bus/transportation availability before reserving your field trip to avoid any conflicts with the field trip day you reserve. Rescheduling is subject to availability.

I paid for a group of participants that did not show up. Can I get a refund?

Refunds are given at check-in as needed. Before check-in, please make sure your entire group has arrived. Count and pay for all participants prior to entering the park. Refunds are not given after park entry. The Field Experience program runs rain or shine and no refunds are given for inclement weather.

We look forward to seeing you! Please call (800) 700-7786, or email us at swsaeducation@seaworld.com if you have any questions about your trip.