

Hello 5th-Grade Families,

As our highly anticipated overnight stay at the NY Aquarium approaches in just two months, we're thrilled to bring you some essential information before the upcoming February Sign-Up Period. Please take a moment to read through this information carefully, ensuring you are well-informed before making ticket purchases. Your attention to these details is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to creating lasting memories together at the aquarium.

How many people can attend:

The event can accommodate a total of 80 guests, encompassing both students and adults. To support maximum participation for interested 5th graders, we've organized the following arrangements:

- **Pods for 5th-Grade Students:** We encourage 5th-grade students to form pods of 1 adult and 4 children each. This enhances the student experience and allows more 5th graders to participate. When registering, note the accompanying adult's name, who must also be registered. For pod assistance, contact Claudia.
- **Flexibility for 5th-Grade Students:** While we encourage the formation of pods, we fully respect the needs of students and their families. If your child would be most comfortable with you attending, please ensure you sign up.

WHAT DOES THE PRICE OF THE OVERNIGHT INCLUDE?

The price of the overnight trip is \$105 per person and includes general admission, parking, educational activities, commemorative keepsake, late-night snack & movie, and continental breakfast. All participants (Children or Adult) are the same price.

What to Bring:

Sleeping Gear

- Sleeping bag or foam pad and pillow. If you are bringing an air mattress, make sure to bring a battery-operated pump as plugs are hard to find.
- Only twin or full-size air mattresses are allowed.

Clothing & Toiletries

- Wear comfortable clothes and non-slip, close-toed shoes (no flip-flops or heels). Bringing change of clothing is optional. Be advised that there is a good walk to the Ocean Wonders: Sharks! Exhibit, so please dress for the weather.
- Make sure to bring the appropriate sleepwear/pajamas with layers as it is cool at night.
- Earplugs and an eye sleep mask are optional, but a good idea as we will all be sleeping in the exhibit areas and there will be some exhibit lights on.
- Basic Toiletries: Hand towels, toothbrush, toothpaste, washcloth, facial soap, comb, and any medications, etc. Please pack in a carrying bag.

Other Suggested Items

- Camera,
- Reusable water bottle
- Portable phone charger (strongly recommended)

LEAVE AT HOME

- **No Phones and I-pads:** To ensure a wonderful experience for the kids, we ask that electronic devices such as phones and iPads be left at home. This policy will be strictly enforced, and "Pod Parents" are encouraged to have the contact information of the student's parents in their pod and vice versa for any communication needs during the trip.
- **No Battery-operated Games, Radios, Glow Sticks, and Necklaces:** In the spirit of creating a focused and engaging atmosphere, we request that items such as battery-operated games, radios, glow sticks, and necklaces be left behind.
- **No Tents:** Tents are not required for the Overnight Aquarium Trip, so there is no need to bring them along. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring a seamless and enjoyable experience for all participating students.

When to arrive

You can arrive at the NY Aquarium at 6 pm (check-in ends at 6:30, so arrive on time). Parking is included in all fees. We will send parking pass details in early March.

What about food?

To ensure a smooth and enjoyable experience during the Overnight Aquarium Trip, here's the information regarding meals:

- **Dinner Before Arrival:** Plan to eat dinner before you arrive at the aquarium or bring dinner to enjoy when you get there. Please aim to finish eating by 6:45 pm as activities begin promptly at 7 pm. If you prefer, there are places along Surf Ave where you can pick up something or stop for dinner. Bring food that doesn't need cooking or heating. We encourage the use of reusable containers, but please note that we don't have facilities for washing dishes. Keep in mind that we will be going behind the scenes, making it impractical to walk around while eating.
- **Evening Snack and Breakfast:** The aquarium provides an evening snack and breakfast. If you bring snacks, ensure they are nut-free.
- **Prohibited Items:** Alcoholic beverages, hard-sided coolers, and stoves are not permitted. We will provide snacks later in the evening and a light breakfast in the morning for all participants.

What if someone in my group is sick?

For the well-being of all participants, please refrain from attending the overnight event if you are feeling unwell. If you find yourself or child unable to participate due to illness, consider the following:

- **Waitlist and Spot Transfer:** We will have individuals on the waitlist eager to take your spot. In such cases, we encourage you to allow someone else to attend in your place. You can coordinate with them to arrange the financial aspect.
- **No Refunds from the Aquarium:** It's essential to be aware that the aquarium does not offer refunds. To streamline the process, we recommend having someone take your spot and directly coordinating the financial exchange with them. This ensures that your reserved spot benefits another participant, allowing you to recover any associated costs. We greatly appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Tentative Enrollment Window:

Monday, February 5 - Enrollment Window Opens for 5th Graders (and their parents)

Monday, February 12 - Enrollment Window Opens for K- 4th Grade (and their parents)

Explore the itinerary and additional details at our PS154 Aquarium Overnight Webpage -

<https://www.ps154.org/aquarium-night>. For additional information about the NY Aquarium overnight program, visit this [FAQ](#) page. Additionally, further information will be shared after the registration period concludes.

In the interim, if you have any questions or inquiries not highlighted in the message above or via the FAQ on the PS154 Webpage, feel free to reach out to us: Claudia (claudia@claudiakalisdesigns.com) & Chino (chinojoy@gmail.com)

We're are excited to have you join this memorable experience at the Aquarium,

Claudia Kalis and Chino Okonkwo