Explore, Discover, Empower

Camp Philosophy

Our camps and camp environments are designed to support inclusive and collaborative learning, promote exploration and discovery and empower campers to reach their full potential.

Aquarium Mission Statement

Birch Aquarium provides ocean science education through creative exhibits, programs, and activities designed to help visitors’ use critical thinking, and to make science relevant to their daily lives; interprets Scripps Institution of Oceanography research, emphasizing the interdisciplinary nature of the science used to study Earth, and inspiring public support of scientific endeavors; and promotes conservation through education and research, believing that with increased understanding of the ocean, people will respect and protect the marine environment.

Educational Guiding Principles & Goals

Sparking interest in and curiosity for the natural world helps facilitate science discovery and learning.

Supporting enjoyment and fun is integral to the creation of meaningful and sustained learning.

All science disciplines can be explored and understood through an ocean-centric theme.

Recognizing and incorporating prior knowledge into an interaction facilitates conversation and personalizes the learning experience.

Creating experiences that use multiple modalities promotes inclusion for a wide variety of participants.

Participation in collaborative learning activities encourages an active exchange of ideas, understanding and explanations (by the participants) and promotes critical thinking.

A hands-on exploration of nature can promote a sense of connection to and stewardship for the environment.

Science is an iterative, ongoing and variable process that can be experienced by making observations, asking questioning, testing ideas, being creative, and sharing information.