Summer Learning Adventure Camps
Frequently Asked Questions

Q) How do I become a member?
   A) Birch Aquarium at Scripps members save on Summer Learning Adventure Camps. Members who join at our Aquarium Associates level or above receive priority registration. Call 858-534-5771 or register online to become a member today.

Q) Is financial aid available?
   A) Thanks to the generosity of various donors, a limited amount of financial aid is available for campers who demonstrate financial need. For more information and an application, visit our website or call the Education Department at 858-534-7336.

Q) How do I register my child for camp?
   A) Registering online will be the quickest and most secure way to process your payment. You can also register by phone or in person. Phone: 858-534-7336.

Q) When will I receive a camp confirmation ticket?
   A) You will instantly receive your e-ticket when you complete an online purchase of your camp. If you do not instantly receive your ticket, call 858-534-7336.

Q) What is your cancelation policy?
   A) Camps are refundable until seven days prior to the start of that camp, less a $25 service charge. There will be no refunds within one week of the camp. This policy allows us to maintain quality programs at the current cost.

Should a class have insufficient enrollment, it will be cancelled five days prior to the scheduled start date. In this event, a full refund will be made, or an opportunity to enroll in another camp—space permitting—will be provided.

Q) Where do I find maps or directions to my child's camp?
   A) The maps are located on the following parent site: http://tinyurl.com/SLAcamp. The login and password are indicated on your ticket.

Q) How do I get to Birch Aquarium?
   A) Birch Aquarium is located at 2300 Expedition Way in La Jolla. Take I-5 to La Jolla Village Drive. Go west one mile. Turn left on Expedition Way. Turn left at the bottom of the hill into the parking lot.
Q) Is parking available at Birch Aquarium?
A) Three-hour complimentary parking is available for aquarium visitors. We ask that you park in the lot and escort your child to the camp check-in table by the Education Office. Please do not park in the traffic circle when dropping off or picking up your child due to the high volume of summertime visitors and clearance for emergency vehicles. Camp participants will have access to 15-minute pick-up/drop-off parking spaces in the lot.

Q) What should my child bring to camp? Do they need to bring a lunch?
A) For half-day camps, your child should bring a snack and drink. Children attending full-day camps must bring both a lunch and a snack/drink. Please do not send money with your child. Campers participating in outdoor activities should wear and bring sunscreen. For a complete list of supplies, log on to the parent site after registering for camp.

Q) My child has special needs. How do you accommodate this?
A) Birch Aquarium at Scripps collaborates with Kids Included Together, a nationwide program that provides our staff with training and support for including children with and without disabilities. Please contact us if you wish to discuss special needs accommodation for your child.

Q) Where do I rent or buy snorkel equipment for my child?
A) You may rent or buy snorkel equipment from Everyday California located at 2243 Avenida De La Playa, La Jolla, CA 92037 (Telephone: 858-454-6195). Buying equipment may be the best option if you will be using it for more than one day. Large retailers also sell equipment (Sports Chalet, Target or Walmart).

Q) My child is shy. Can I stay with him/her during the camp?
A) We ask that all parents refrain from attending camp. We do however allow a parent to stay at the aquarium while their child is in camp.

Q) Do you have overnight camps or extended care before or after camps?
A) No. We do not offer overnight camps at this time, and we are unable to offer extended care before or after our camps.

Q) What time should I drop off and pick up my child?
A) Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your child’s scheduled camp time.

Q) I have two children going into different grades. Can I put them in the same camp?
A) We feel that social learning is very important in camp. To maintain the program-quality standards of our camps, campers need to be enrolled in the camp designated for their age group.
Q) The camp I want is full. Will you be opening more spaces?  
A) Once a camp is full, you may join a waitlist. If any spaces open up, we will contact you.

Q) The school my child attends doesn’t have grade levels. What ages correspond to the grade levels?  
A) PreK-K: 4-5 years; Grades 1-2: 5-7 years; Grades 2-3: 7-8 years; Grades 4-6: 8-11 years; Grades 7-9: 11-15 years

Q) What are your student-to-staff ratios?  
A) In our classroom and field programs, the student-to-staff ratio is at least 5:1 for ages 4-5 and 7:1 for ages 6 and up. Programs that take place in the ocean have a 5:1 ratio for all ages.

Q) Who is the camp staff?  
A) Full-time and part-time employees and interns. All camp staff are required to complete one full week of training and background checks each year. Our year-round staff are CPR and First Aid certified.

Q) What does ‘intermediate swimming’ mean?  
A) A camper with “intermediate swimming” abilities must be able to do each of the following:
  - Swim 50 yards using any coordinated style of swimming (side stroke, crawl stroke, breast stroke, etc)
  - Tread water continuously for one minute
  - Float motionless in deep water for three minutes

Q) I have more questions. Who can I contact?  
A) Contact us at 858-534-7336 or birchaquariumprograms@ucsd.edu