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Birch Aquarium Offers Camp Financial Aid

The aquarium hopes to include and inspire all future ocean stewards through Summer Learning Adventure Camps.

La Jolla, Calif. (April 11, 2019)—Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego is offering \$30,000 in financial aid scholarships for ocean-themed summer camps thanks to a generous gift from Ellen Lehman. From the classroom to the seashore, Birch Aquarium’s Summer Learning Adventure Camps merge scientific exploration with hands-on fun and learning.

“We think that it is important for children at a young age to learn about the ocean—it’s fun possibilities for recreation as well as the inhabitants living within—and how the ocean is important for mankind’s future,” said Lehman.

Lehman’s gift is the largest in Birch Aquarium’s camp history. The summer 2019 scholarships will allow the aquarium to offer free camp to more than 80 children. Even more children will be supported with partial scholarships.

“I am so proud that we can offer scholarships to support so many of our campers, inspiring future ocean stewards,” said Danny Beckwith, Manager of Public Engagement. “The generous support of our donors allows us to provide camp experiences so that everyone can share in the fun and exploration of our ocean planet.”

Summer Learning Adventure camps support inclusive and collaborative learning, promote exploration and discovery, and empowers campers to reach their full potential, all while creating lasting memories. Campers ages 4-15 investigate marine habitats, create ocean art projects, learn about careers in science from Scripps Oceanography researchers. Older campers are also able to dive below the waves at surfing and snorkeling camps led by aquarium naturalists and tour Scripps Oceanography laboratories normally closed to the public.

Financial Aid applicants are required to [fill out an online application](#) and scholarships are awarded based on need.

Birch Aquarium offers both half- and full-day week-long camps that run from June 24 to August 23, 2019. Summer Learning Adventure Camps are accredited by the American Camp Association. Summer camp registration is available [online](#) or by phone at 858-534-7336. [Financial aid](#) forms must be filled out online at least one month before the desired camp. Those interested in donating for future scholarships can contact j5matthews@ucsd.edu.

About Birch Aquarium at Scripps

Birch Aquarium at Scripps is the public exploration center for the world-renowned Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego. Perched on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, the aquarium features more than 60 habitats of fishes and invertebrates from the cold waters of the Pacific Northwest to the tropical waters of Mexico and the western Pacific. An interactive museum showcases research discoveries by Scripps scientists on climate, earth and ocean science, and features interactive elements. Accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Birch Aquarium has an annual attendance of more than 470,000, including 50,000 school children.