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**\*Photos and video are available.**

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## **Celebrate 20 Years of Spooky Science at Haunted Aquarium**

**Birch Aquarium's family-friendly Halloween event expands to three nights for 20th anniversary.**

**La Jolla, Calif. (Sept. 19, 2019)**—Meet the creeps of the deep and get hands-on with Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego science during the 20th-annual Haunted Aquarium: Sea Monster Mash. Families are invited to dive into the spooky and slimy side of ocean science and enjoy a Halloween-themed evening of music, crafts, and close encounters with underwater creatures.

To celebrate 20 years of spooky science, Haunted Aquarium has expanded to three nights, October 25, 26, and 27, from 6 to 9 p.m. Guests will experience eerie and unusual organisms, see a super-sized squid dissection, and create their own seaweed slime to take home. Meet Scripps Oceanography scientists studying ocean creatures big and small and get an insider's look into what it takes to study the mysterious, and often spooky-looking, creatures of the deep.

“Haunted Aquarium is a ghoulish delight for the whole family and we are proud to be celebrating 20 years of this community event” said Daniel Beckwith, Manager of Public Engagement at Birch Aquarium. “We hope everyone who joins us will have a new understanding of the sometimes frightening, and often misunderstood, creeps of the deep.”

Haunted Aquarium is a fun and educational Halloween celebration. Costumes are encouraged, especially if they have an ocean science theme. Billy Lee and the Swamp Critters return for music and dancing, and Splash! Café by The French Gourmet will be open for ghoulish treats. For the first time, spooky seasonal decor will be up the entire month of October.

Also new this year, guests will be invited to decorate their own recycled plastic into ghoulish decor on October 19 and 20 as part of the “Reduce, Reuse, Repumpkin” community event ahead of Haunted Aquarium. Guests are invited to use aquarium-provided art materials to create spooktacular pumpkins out of recycled plastic containers that will be on display for Haunted Aquarium. Guests can also bring their own pre-decorated recycled plastic pumpkins to share with the public. The plastic pumpkins should be made of any clean, reused plastic container. [Please visit the website for more details](#) and use the hashtag #repumpkin to share your creative pumpkins with us.

Haunted Aquarium often sells out, so purchasing early is encouraged. Discounted presale tickets are available for \$25 for the general public, \$20 for Birch Aquarium members. Tickets will be available at the

door for \$30. Children ages 2 and under are free, and children under 16 must be accompanied by a paid adult. General admission aquarium tickets cannot be used for Haunted Aquarium. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [aquarium.ucsd.edu](http://aquarium.ucsd.edu) or call 858-534-FISH.

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### **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.

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