



UC San Diego
SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY

Press Release

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Waddle Be His Name?

Birch Aquarium needs the public's help to name one of its Little Blue Penguins.

La Jolla, CA (April 25, 2022) — It's World Penguin Day! What better way to celebrate than by naming one of the Little Blue Penguins (*Eudyptula minor*) at Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego.

Starting today all penguin lovers will have a chance to name one of the 15 penguins that will move into the *Beyster Family Little Blue Penguins* habitat when it opens this summer.

"Being able to introduce the community to Little Blue Penguins and foster a deeper connection and understanding of their environment, how important they are to our ecosystems and the survival challenges they face, is truly a milestone worth celebrating," said Jenn Nero Moffatt, senior director of animal care, science and conservation.

So, waddle be his name? That's for the public to decide! From April 25 to May 8 the public can suggest a name along with why they think it's the perfect fit for this penguin on Birch Aquarium's [website](#). This pint-sized penguin needs a name as unique as its species. Birch Aquarium encourages the community to pick a name with ties to San Diego, UC San Diego, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, or Birch Aquarium itself.

"This penguin is one of my favorites because he has a mellow and friendly disposition. He's often seen swimming and spending time with the other males in the colony," said Kayla Strate,

lead penguin aquarist. “He’s got this beautiful sharp plumage and that characteristic hook on the end of his bill that is a sure giveaway that this is a strong, competitive male.”

This is the first time in the history of Birch Aquarium the team is naming any of its animals. This newly-named penguin will be joining Magic, Nero, Persimmon, Reka, Cornelius and Katie, who have all been named through philanthropic gifts.

Birch Aquarium will choose four potential names from the submissions and announce them on the aquarium’s social media channels. The public will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite of the four selected names from May 16 to 29. The final name will be announced June 2, 2022.

Beyster Family Little Blue Penguins is the biggest addition to Birch Aquarium in 30 years. When the exhibit opens to the public this summer, it will be included in the cost of admission, which is \$24.95 for adults and \$19.95 for children ages 3-17. [Annual memberships are also available.](#) Advanced reservations are required for all guests, including members. Visit aquarium.ucsd.edu for more information or to make a reservation.

About Birch Aquarium at Scripps

Birch Aquarium at Scripps is the public exploration center for Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego. Perched on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, Birch Aquarium features the groundbreaking work of Scripps Oceanography and UC San Diego scientists as well as conservation breeding programs, and interactive exhibits. Birch Aquarium’s mission is to connect understanding to protecting our ocean planet, which the aquarium achieves by engaging, hands-on learning opportunities for nearly 500,000 guests as well as more than 50,000 pre-K-12 students each year. Visit aquarium.ucsd.edu for more information.

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