



**Educational
Group
Toolkit
2017 - 2018**

SCHOOL GROUP RATES

Offering deep discounts to School Groups!*

Ripley's Aquarium:

1110 Celebrity Circle
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Preschool

\$4.50

Kindergarten through 12th Grade

\$8.50

Includes a free classroom program! (Excluding dissections)

Hours of Operation:

Opens Daily at 9am

Closing Hours change seasonally

Ripley's Boulevard Attractions:

901 N. Ocean Boulevard
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Including the Believe It or Not Odditorium,
Mirror Maze, 5-D Moving Theater and Haunted
Laser Strike

Preschool:

\$3.50

Kindergarten through 12th Grade

\$6.50

Hours of Operation:

Opening and Closing Hours change seasonally and
differ by attraction

All Attractions

NC&SC Teachers

Always Free! (must provide current paycheck stub & teacher ID.)

Chaperones

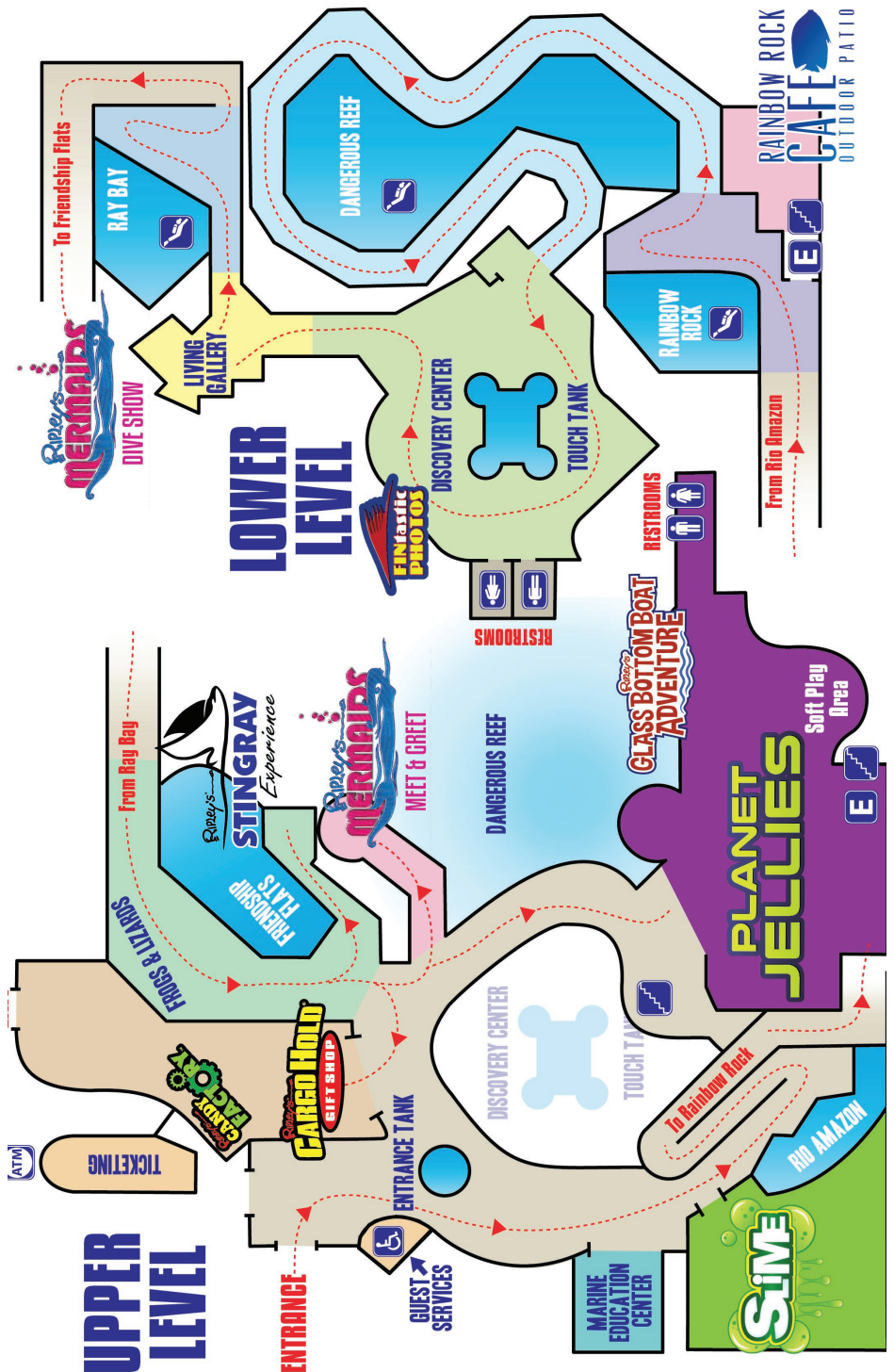
Preschool: One FREE per every 5 students

Kindergarten-12th Grade: One FREE per every 10
students

Additional Chaperones

\$8.50

*Education Group prices are tax inclusive.



Guide Books \$2.16

Purchase a guide book for each group leader or for each student to get the most out of your aquarium visit! Interesting facts on each exhibit and fun activities make this a must for your field trip!

2017-2018 STUDENT GROUP -- HELPFUL HINTS

TEACHER/FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR

PLEASE TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO REVIEW THIS INFORMATION AS YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE AND HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR IT.

Confirmation

It is your responsibility to verify that all of the information on your confirmation is correct. If you have any changes, please notify us 24 hours in advance. We realize the number of students and chaperones are estimates and may change; as a result please note that the number of complimentary chaperones may change. Also, please note that final numbers are due 24 hours prior to your field trip date. Please keep a copy of your confirmation for your records and bring it with you on the day of your field trip for check in.

Payment & Refund Policy

Payment: All field trip money should be collected by the teacher/field trip coordinator prior to arrival. Only one payment will be accepted on the date of your visit. We accept company checks, cash and credit cards (please note: we do not accept purchase orders). If your group is visiting multiple Ripley's Attractions you will pay for all Attractions at the Aquarium Guest Services window upon arrival. Parents are more than welcome to attend. However, in order to receive the school rate, all adults must be included on the field trip total. All monies must be collected and included in the school's payment. Parents **MAY NOT** pay at the ticket booth on the day of the field trip and receive the discounted rate unless previously approved by the Director of Education; they will be charged general admission.

Refund: Refunds will be sent back to the address on the payment in the form of a check. Please allow 2-3 weeks to receive your refund. Please note that under no circumstances will we give a refund in cash.

Behavior Agreement

To ensure that your visit is as educational and fun as possible, you should review the behavior expectations with your students and chaperones. After you have reviewed, please sign the bottom of the page to indicate that you have gone over this information with the students/chaperones and you agree to enforce these rules during your visit. You will need to bring a signed copy upon arrival. If we do not receive your signed behavior contract you may be denied entry.

Lunches

Final numbers for a scheduled lunch with us are due no later than 72 hours prior to arrival. If you do not provide final lunch numbers 72 hours in advance and we do not hear anything from you, we reserve the right to give your lunch time away and cannot guarantee that your food will be ready at the time listed on your confirmation. Changes will **NOT** be made to your lunch count after you provide final numbers. Please note that if you have a lunch booked and do not cancel it within 72 hours, you will be responsible for a \$50 cancellation fee.

2017-2018 STUDENT GROUP -- HELPFUL HINTS

Bag Lunches

Bag lunches are NOT permitted in the building. At the Aquarium, students may eat bag lunches outside or on the bus if there is bad weather. We do NOT have storage space available for bag lunches. Areas within the Aquarium are reserved for groups that have booked lunch prior to their arrival. If your group leaves the Aquarium or other attraction to eat bag lunches, you must leave as a group and return as a group that same day.

NEW! Classroom Programs

Ripley's Aquarium of Myrtle Beach is pleased to offer one free classroom program for each reservation (excludes dissections and behind the scenes tours)! Please note that classroom programs are based on availability and may not be available at the time you choose. Classroom programs begin at the time indicated on your contract. Classrooms are located on the right hand side after you enter the Aquarium, past the Guest Services area. Teachers are required to remain with the group during classes. If you decide, at any time, that you cannot attend the scheduled program please be courteous and cancel as soon as possible so another school can take advantage of this time slot. Cancellations are accepted via phone or email. Your program will automatically be canceled if we do not hear from you and you are over 15 minutes late arriving to the Aquarium. **Be sure to check out our NEW education programs for the 2017-18 school year!**

Running Late/Cancellation

Please notify the Education Program Coordinator at 843.916.0888 x3226 in the event that you will be running more than 15 minutes late. If your group has a scheduled classroom program at the Aquarium we will try to accommodate you at a later time. However we cannot guarantee that another time will be available. If you need to cancel your field trip all together, please notify us as soon as possible via:

Phone: 843.916.0888 ext. 3226

Email: mbeducation@ripleys.com

Deposit

A \$50 non-refundable deposit is due at time of booking. FULL PAYMENT IS REQUIRED UPON ARRIVAL. Under no circumstances will we invoice your group, so please be prepared to pay with a school check or school credit card upon arrival.

Upon Arrival

Check in and final payment will take place at the Aquarium Guest Services window. To expedite the process, be sure to have the exact final number of students, teachers and adults ready for the Guest Services representative. We will only adjust numbers up or down within 10 people. Have all monies ready and remember that only one payment per confirmation will be accepted. If your group is visiting multiple Ripley's Attractions, payment should still be made at the Aquarium Guest Services window upon arrival for all locations.

2017-2018 STUDENT GROUP – HELPFUL HINTS

Group Photos

We offer a 6x8 class photo for only \$7.00 per copy. Be sure to get your group photo taken upon arrival to receive this great discount.

Time to Tour

Ripley's Aquarium of Myrtle Beach -	2 hours Hourly dive shows begin at 11am daily
Ripley's Believe It or Not Odditorium -	1 hour
Ripley's Moving Theater -	20-25 minutes Groups enter 30 people at a time
Ripley's Haunted Laser Strike -	25-30 minutes Groups enter 10-12 people at a time
Ripley's Marvelous Mirror Maze -	15 minutes (can go through over and over)

All times above are approximate. Times can be tailored to meet your groups needs.

Educational Materials

The Education Department has a variety of materials to supplement your field trip. Scavenger hunt worksheets are available for all grade levels at the Aquarium and Believe It or Not Odditorium. You must request scavenger hunts in advance in order to make copies and distribute to your group, as they will not be available upon arrival.

Where is Lost and Found

Lost and Found is located at Guest Services near the entrance of the Aquarium. Lost and Found at all other Ripley's attractions is located at the ticket booth.

Where is the exit at the Aquarium

The exit of the Aquarium is located in the back of the Cargo Hold Gift Shop. Good meeting spots for groups are at Friendship Flats or outside the building on the Aquarium plaza. Be sure to make a final head count before boarding your bus and leaving the Aquarium.

Rules

1. Students, regardless of age, must remain with their chaperones at ALL times.
2. There is no running permitted.
3. There is no yelling or loud voices permitted. We need to respect all other guests in the building.
4. There is no gum or outside food/drink permitted.
5. At Aquarium, students MUST be accompanied by a chaperone while in the Cargo Hold Gift Shop.
6. Remind your students that they are representing their school or organization; they are expected to use the same behavior while visiting our attractions as they would at school/organization.

WE'RE GLAD YOU CHOSE RIPLEY'S AQUARIUM OF MYRTLE BEACH AND/OR RIPLEY'S ATTRACTIONS AS YOUR EDUCATIONAL DESTINATION!

Splash into one of our hands on educational opportunities!

Interactive Programs are 30-45 minutes long unless otherwise noted.

All programs require a minimum of 10 students to hold. Maximum of 30 students per program.

Grade Pre K

Wiggles, Jiggles and Giggles

Using movement, students will learn how different underwater animals make their way through the ocean.

Exploring Senses

Through different activities, students will learn how various marine animals use their senses and will explore the idea of touch, sight, smell, taste and sounds.

Grade K-2

Habitat Sweet Habitat

Students discover the characteristics of a habitat while exploring the sights and inhabitants of the Deep Sea, Coral Reef and Tropical Rainforest.

Coral Reefs!

Students will learn the basic structure of corals and will be introduced to the idea of symbiotic relationships. They will understand how fragile and important the coral reef ecosystem is and we will provide them with ways in which they can help support conservation efforts.

Grade 3-5

Marine Fossils

Students will learn the importance of fossils and how scientists use them to gather information about the past. This hands on activity will awaken their inner paleontologist while they identify real marine fossils!

Invertebrate Investigations

Students will be able to identify the differences between vertebrates and invertebrates by observing different characteristic structures and adaptations. Students will also create their own invertebrate!

Splash into one of our hands on educational opportunities!

Interactive Programs are 30-45 minutes long unless otherwise noted.

Grade 6-8

Marsh Madness

Students will discover the importance of the connection between different organisms and how energy flows in food webs. All students will participate in a game showcasing the effects of an unbalanced salt marsh ecosystem on species populations.

Pollution Solution

Students will understand the different types of plastics and will learn how pollution effects marine animals at various levels in the water column.

Grade 9-12

Careers in Marine Science

Explore a variety of fascinating careers in Marine Science. From animal training to water chemistry students can search for their niche in this dynamic field and get their questions answered by a professional.

Investigative Dissections

Shark (Grade 8-12)- \$4/per student • Squid (Grade 6-12) \$3/per student

Your students will take an up-close look at the internal and external anatomy of either a shark or a squid, using both hands on techniques and visual aids.

All Grades

Shark Squad

What makes sharks different from all the other fish in the ocean? Students will explore shark diversity while uncovering their many unique adaptations.

Ripley's Ocean Challenge

Students team up during this "Jeopardy" style trivia game to test their knowledge of various science topics. The thrill of competition makes learning fun and exciting!

Ripley's® **GLASS BOTTOM BOAT ADVENTURE**

What better way to experience the Aquarium than from in the largest exhibit? Your students will receive a 12-15 minute lesson on habitats, adaptations and more while floating on 750,000 gallons of saltwater!

September- February only!

All Ages - \$5.00 per person

Reservations are required to receive the discounted school rates. The boat holds a maximum of 10-12 participants at a time depending on the grade level; please check your confirmation after booking for each groups tour times.



BEHIND THE SCENES

Your students will learn what it takes to run a 1.4 million gallon Aquarium! They will join one of our educators for a 30-minute tour that includes our animal care, food preparation and life support areas. Students will have the opportunity to meet our animal care staff and get all of their questions answered.

Ages 2 & up - \$3.50 per person

Reservations are required to receive the discounted school rates. Maximum of 12 participants at a time; please be sure to check your confirmation after booking for each groups tour times.



Bring Ripley's to your school!

Can't make it to the Aquarium? Let us come to you!

First Class	\$100
Second Class	\$75
Live Animals	\$150 per class
Mileage fees	Does not apply for schools within 25 miles \$25 for 25-50 miles \$50 for 51-75 miles \$75 for 76-100 miles

Investigative Dissections - Squid or Shark Dissection

Let's dive inside a marine animal - right at your students' desks! We will bring squid or shark for a hands-on dissection!

Animal Fee Applies.

Beach Creatures

Students will learn about the fascinating sea creatures they may encounter while walking along the beach. From sea snails to sharks, you will discover an exciting world of marine life through animal artifacts, or invite live sharks, conchs, crabs and other critters to swim and crawl right in your students' hands!



School Lunches

Forget the hassle of lugging around bagged lunches—let us make lunch easy for you and your students! We will prepare a cafeteria style meal for you and your students to enjoy away from the hustle and bustle of the crowds. You and your students can choose from the following options:

\$5.00

HOT Lunch!
Slice of Cheese Pizza or
5-piece Chicken Bites
Comes with chips, cookies and drink

OR

\$5.00

COLD Lunch!
Choice of Ham or Turkey
and cheese sandwich
Comes with chips, cookies and drink

**Cannot combine hot & cold lunch options
Final Lunch choices are due to us no later than 72 hours to field trip date.

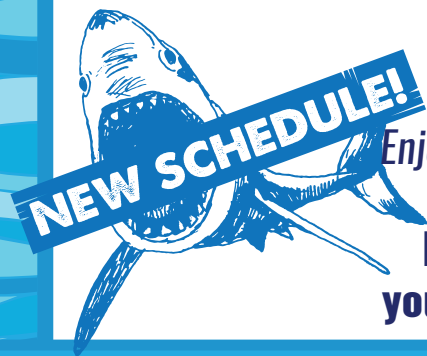
Policy on School Lunches

Our space for school lunches typically can contain up to 75 people at a time. Throughout the year there may be times when the room will not be able to hold as many as 75 people. We will work with your group to schedule you so that as many people in your group as possible will eat at the same time. Small groups may be combined with other groups.

Each group will be allotted 45 minutes to get their food, eat and clean up their trash. Small school groups may be booked at the same time as other small school groups.

NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR DRINKS WILL BE PERMITTED.





Sleep with the Sharks!

Enjoy an educational overnight at the Aquarium with your students!

Cost: \$60 per person (tax inclusive)

Non-Refundable Deposit of \$450 required to reserve your evening. 15 person minimum, 100 person maximum

Sample Schedule

- **8:00 pm Check-in**
- **Introduction & Rules**
- **Gift Shop Time**
- **Late Night Activity (based on grade level)**
- **Dive Show**
- **Late Night Snack**
- **Scavenger Hunt**
- **Set camp up in tunnel and get ready for bed**
- **Lights Out**

- **6:30 am Rise and Shine**
- **Breakfast**
- **Creature Feature/ Tank Talk**
- **7:45 am Depart and hope to see you again!**



Additional Options for 8:00am: Stingray Experiences for an additional \$30 per person, allowing about 20 minutes in the tank with the rays while a diver feeds them near you!

Stingray Experience

Minimum of 10 students required to book with the discounted rate!

Get up close and personal with the stingrays in Friendship Flats during this 20 minute hands-on learning experience!

Discounted pricing offered to school groups Monday through Friday, September through May. Also available the morning after any Sleep with the Sharks program.

Group size may limit availability.

Stingray Experience - \$30

Includes 20 minutes in the water while a diver feeds the stingrays and provides more information on these gentle ocean dwellers.



TEAM BUILDING

Looking for a fun and simple way to bring your students together? Our new Ripley's Haunted Laser Strike adventure course is exactly what you need! In this course students will utilize:

- **Cooperation**
- **Listening**
- **Communication**

Choosing to add Ripley's Haunted Laser Strike onto your Aquarium Adventure means that your students will engage in:

- **Bonding/Developing Social Skills-** It's the perfect way to open up communication amongst your students and encourage them to express their ideas and compromise with others during the course of a group game.
- **Competition-** Striking up some friendly competition between students is a great way to generate enthusiasm and keep them engaged.
- **Personal Growth-** By working as a team, students will learn more about their own capabilities, build self-esteem, and the work involved to achieve their goals.
- **Problem Solving/Strategizing-** By allowing students to problem solve together, you are allowing them to be creative and explore different avenues to reach the finish line. Students will learn that there is not always one right answer to a problem.

Chaperone Guide

Tips for Being a Great Chaperone

- *You are the leader of your small group of students. You will lead your group on their trip through the Aquarium. Be sure you know which students are in your group and keep them together. Ripley's Aquarium can be very busy, and it can sometimes be hard to keep your students together. Before you start your adventure, set up a gathering point in the event that you become separated.*
- *Help your students learn. Ask the teacher about the educational goals for the field trip. Find out if the students have a special project or worksheet to complete, such as the Scavenger Hunt.*
- *YOU determine the behavior of your group. Make sure your group knows and understand the Aquarium rules: Students must stay with their chaperones. No food, drinks, or gum is allowed near the exhibits. Running, shouting or smoking is not allowed anywhere in the Aquarium. Tapping on the acrylic of the exhibits is not permitted to protect the animals. Any undisciplined or unchaperoned groups may be asked to leave the Aquarium.*
- *Know important locations. Refer to the dive show schedule or guidebook (if purchased). This map will enable you to locate the restrooms, exhibits, and other points of interest within the aquarium.*

Teaching Tips for Chaperones

- *Ask thought-provoking questions. Stop at uncrowded exhibits and ask your students to compare the different animals. Look closely at mouths, fins, tails and body shapes. Observe how fish behave. How do they swim, eat or protect themselves? Finding correct answers is not as important as having students think creatively about the questions.*
- *Guess where some of the animals got their common names. Why is it called a horseshoe crab? Butterfly fish? Powder Puff Anemone? Use the exhibit displays and guide book (if purchased) as resources.*
- *Be sure to involve ALL students in your group. Wait for answers. Don't worry if some students take a longer time than others to answer questions. Give them all a chance to answer.*
- *Use the Exhibit Educators. Exhibit Educators are located at many of the exhibits. They are there to help your students learn about the animals of Ripley's Aquarium. They will be happy to answer your students' questions, point out interesting features on the animals and help the students handle the animal safely.*
- *Have fun! If you have fun, the rest of your group will, too! This will contribute to the overall success of your trip.*



Behavior Agreement:

Ripley's Aquarium invites a wide variety of guests, of all ages, into our aquarium for a hands-on, interactive experience to discover the aquatic world and how to conserve it. To ensure that your visit is as educational and fun as possible, please review the following rules with your students and chaperones before your field trip to the aquarium. After you have reviewed, please sign the bottom of the page to indicate that you have gone over the information with the students and chaperones and you agree to enforce these behaviors during your visit.

Students

We agree to the following:

- We will stay with our chaperones at all times!
- We will listen to our chaperones and Ripley's staff members and follow any directions given.
- We will share the aquarium with other students, schools and guests by being courteous and respectful.
- We will not use loud voices, run, chew gum or eat or drink near the exhibits. This is for the comfort of other students, schools and guests in the building as well as for the comfort of our animals.
- We will respect all living things in the aquarium, especially the animals. We will not be rough with touch tank animals, attempt to scare any animals, or tap on the tanks.
- We will use the stairs, ramps and elevator and will not play on them. We will reserve the use of the elevator for guests that have difficulty traveling through the aquarium otherwise.
- We understand that any person who breaks an item in the Aquarium's Cargo Hold Gift Shop will be required to pay for that item.

Chaperones

We agree to the following:

- We understand that our top priority is to manage our group of children in order to keep them and the animals safe and help them to learn.
- We understand that talking or texting on cell phones or otherwise distracting behavior interrupts the learning environment in classroom programs or on tours, as well as distracts our own attention from our group while exploring the aquarium.
- We understand that we are responsible for assisting students during meal times and bathroom breaks, as well as other needs that may arise, and will ensure that all students clean up after themselves.
- We will do our best to ensure that no student is left alone in any situation.

Lead/Coordinating Teachers

I have read the Behavior Agreement to my group prior to our field trip to the aquarium and accept responsibility for their behavior in the aquarium. I understand that if these behavior guidelines are not followed, my group will first be given a warning. If my group continues to break the behavior agreement, I understand that we will be asked to leave the aquarium. I understand that my group will not be refunded any money if asked to leave. I am also aware that my administrator will be contacted.

Signature: _____

Field Trip Evaluation Form

Reserving your trip

How would you describe the ease of reserving your field trip? _____

Did you feel as though you received all of the necessary information you needed in order to plan the best trip possible for your group? _____

Any other comments on reserving field trips: _____

Aquarium Experience

How would you describe your field trip experience? _____

Did you participate in a class or lunch? _____

Do you feel that your students gained relevant new knowledge during their classroom program? _____

Would you sign up for a class or lunch on your next field trip? _____

Did your group utilize the scavenger hunt? _____

Did your group utilize the guidebooks? _____

Please scan and email completed evaluation form to mbeducation@ripleys.com