


## Seattle Aquarium field trip code of conduct

The Seattle Aquarium is committed to creating a safe, comfortable and enjoyable experience for all students and chaperones. Our policies establish guidelines to follow while enjoying our habitats and learning about the Aquarium's mission of *Inspiring Conservation of Our Marine Environment*.

- **Unsafe behavior:** Unsafe behavior that endangers people or animals, disrupts other guests' ability to enjoy their visit and/or interferes with business operations will not be tolerated. Examples include running in the Aquarium, grabbing or harming animals/other people and standing on/jumping over benches.
- **Verbally abusive or offensive language:** Verbally abusive or offensive language and/or gestures directed toward guests, staff members and/or volunteers are not permitted.
- **Mistreatment of the animals in our care:** No foreign objects may ever be placed in the habitats. Any action that abuses or endangers the animals' wellbeing is strictly prohibited. Examples include grabbing touch pool animals, banging on the glass of habitats and throwing any items into animal habitats.
- **Adult supervision and responsibility:** Adults are responsible for the behavior and supervision of the students in their group. This responsibility applies at all times while on the Aquarium campus. Minors must always be in the physical presence of teachers, caregivers and/or chaperones. For all school programs, attendees under the age of 18 require an adult chaperone over the age of 21.

Here are some helpful tips to remember regarding specific experiences at the Aquarium:

- **Groups with minors are not allowed in Caring Cove.** This play area is for general admission families with our youngest guests under the age of 5. You are more than welcome to visit Caring Cove at a later date when not visiting with a school or youth group.
- **Teacher approval and direct supervision are required for school groups to participate in our virtual reality experience.** Tickets are available for purchase on-site for \$9 each. Virtual reality can accommodate eight riders (ages 6 and up) every 15 minutes.

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- **Gift shops:** All youth groups are required to have active adult supervision while shopping in the gift shops.
  - **Consumption of outside food is permitted in two locations on the Aquarium campus: outside on the back deck of Pier 59, and inside Pier 59 along the mural wall of our Life on the Edge tide pool habitat.** We request that groups sitting on the floor please keep as close to the wall as possible so other guests can safely move around you.
    - Group snacks/lunches in any other habitats (including, but not limited to: Window on Washington Waters, Crashing Waves, Harbor Seals or anywhere in the Ocean Pavilion) are strictly forbidden. Groups may only eat inside the Aquarium café if they purchase food from there.
  - **When in doubt, remember our** Field Trip Student Code of Conduct:
    - O** – One gentle finger when touching animals.
    - R** – Respect other guests, Aquarium staff/volunteers and the facility (no climbing, running or other unsafe behavior).
    - C** – Caring Cove is off-limits to school groups.
    - A** – Adults will stay with their group of students at all times.
    - S** – Snacks and lunches can only be eaten along the walls of our tide pool habitat.

Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in a verbal warning and even your group being asked to leave the Seattle Aquarium. Repeated issues may prevent your institution from being permitted to book future trips.

A full list of the Seattle Aquarium's Code of Conduct can be accessed here: <https://www.seattleaquarium.org/code-conduct>