

Overnight Program Frequently Asked Questions

Do you run Overnight Programs every weekend?

No. Overnight Programs run only on pre-arranged nights.

Are there specific nights just for Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts?

No, all evenings are co-ed. We do our best to separate boys and girls and are usually able to have girls sleep in one area while the boys sleep in the other, but we cannot guarantee this.

What ages do you allow?

The minimum age for participation in the Overnight Program is 6 years old. We are sorry, but due to insurance restrictions, any children under 6 are unable to attend. **Please do not make this request**, as we are unable to grant it. In addition, these events are geared for children ages 6 – 12. No adult only groups will be permitted to attend.

What is your adult to child ratio?

We require 1 adult per every 5 children attending the program.

Where will we be sleeping?

Guests will be placed in sleeping areas in front of exhibits that are appropriate to the size of their group. No requests for sleeping areas will be accepted. Overnight Program guests will receive their sleeping assignments at 10:30pm the night of their program. Due to safety concerns, guests will not be given sleeping assignments early (imagine tripping over someone's sleeping bag while walking around the dark aquarium – not fun!). Please prepare the children in your group accordingly. We cannot send sleepy children to bed any earlier than 10:30pm.

What kind of accommodations can we expect?

An Overnight Program overnight is an exciting adventure that lacks some of the comforts of home. For your safety, the aquarium is never completely dark. Within a large group, it is rarely totally quiet. We urge you to bring sleep masks and earplugs if these things are an issue for you. While the aquarium is an ideal place to get up close and personal with a shark or octopus, it is not a 5 star hotel. Necessities like bathrooms and water fountains may not be located in close proximity to your group during the night. For your comfort, we suggest a bedtime bathroom run before lights out.

What should we bring?

Please refer to the "What to Bring" document. Please keep in mind that you are responsible for carrying your own gear from the Parking Garage to the Aquarium, from our storage area to your assigned sleeping area, and back to your car in the morning. We strongly suggest packing lightly! We suggest no more than one backpack and sleeping bag for each member of your group.

How do we find the Aquarium?

Visit www.adventureaquarium.com for directions. If using a GPS or internet mapping program, please use the address **1 Riverside Drive, Camden, NJ 08103**.

Can we bring air mattresses?

All air mattresses must be no larger than twin size, **regardless of how many people will be sharing them.** Guests that bring air mattresses larger than twin size will be asked to deflate them. Cots and lawn chairs are also not permitted. Guests that bring these items into the Aquarium will be asked to leave them in the lobby to be picked up in the morning.

Can we bring our own food?

Outside food and drinks (other than bottled water) are not permitted in the Aquarium, unless a member of your group has special dietary needs (please call or email prior to your program to alert us of this!). **Please plan on eating dinner prior to your arrival.** There is not adequate time or space to allow your group to eat dinner after arrival. If your group arrives early, there are limited restaurants and places to eat near the Aquarium.

Do you provide bottled water?

Did you know that Americans buy over 29 billion water bottles a year! And, for every six water bottles we use, only one makes it to the recycling bin. The rest are sent to landfills, or end up as trash on the land and in rivers, lakes, and the ocean. Because of that, we do not give out bottled water at the Overnight Program program. We do, however, encourage you to bring reusable water bottles, and fill them at the many water fountains located around the aquarium.

What should we wear?

Guests should wear warm, comfortable clothes and dress in layers. Please keep in mind that there are no shower facilities or changing rooms available. We suggest wearing clothes that would be comfortable to sleep in, such as sweats, pajama pants and slip on shoes. Guests should wear shoes throughout the event, and may not walk around the aquarium in bare feet, especially in the rest rooms. It is recommended to sleep in socks so you don't have to fumble around in the dark for shoes should you need to use the rest rooms in the middle of the night.

How do you handle late arrivals?

The arrival time for all Overnight Programs is between 6pm and 6:45pm. It is strongly recommended that your group arrive on time. The Camden Parking Authority will close the garage at 7:00 p.m. sharp and parking for late arrivals is not secure. Our security and courtesy procedures are designed to accommodate guest arrivals up until 6:45pm. We are not able to reschedule activities (i.e. Behind the Scenes Tours, Ocean Realm Show) for late groups the night of the event. In addition, the shuttle will not be available for late arrivals.

Keep in mind that if members of your group are late:

- There are no longer attendants to point them to proper parking and unloading
- The shuttle from the parking area is no longer running
- There is no one at the Information desk to hand out schedules and unite them with your group
- They may not be able to park in the secured parking garage
- They may miss scheduled activities such as the Behind the Scenes Tours and other talks and shows

If it is unavoidable that you arrive after the Check-In time, you may park in the unsecured open parking lot **At Your Own Risk.** This lot is unmonitored at night. It is located across the street from the garage building, closer to the Bridge. Follow the brick walkway around the building towards the River to the Aquarium doors. If, upon your arrival, you find that the Aquarium doors have been locked for the night, please contact a member of your group via cell phone, so that they may alert Security to let you in.

What does snack/breakfast consist of?

Snack - goldfish crackers, granola bars, snack mix, juice, coffee and tea.

Breakfast - cereal & milk, Danish, yogurt cups, juice, coffee and tea

What kind of deposit do you require?

A 15% non-refundable deposit is due two weeks after you reserve space, and the remaining balance is due based on the payment schedule found in your contract.

Do Adventure Aquarium Passport Members get a discount?

No, there are no discounts available for the program at this time.

What if my number of participants changes?

Notify us immediately of any increases in your numbers so we may make the proper arrangements. Increases after final payments have been made will be made on a space available basis up until the Monday prior to your program date. However, if you have a reduction in your participants after we have received your final payment, your numbers are locked in. We cannot offer refunds so we suggest you find siblings or other adults to then fill open spaces.

What are the procedures for weather related cancellation?

If the Center needs to cancel a Overnight Program due to inclement weather, you will be notified by noon the day of your program. We will try to reschedule your group. If we cannot find a suitable event time, we will offer a full refund. If your group initiates the cancellation, we cannot refund any money.

Can I get a refund if my child is sick and cannot attend the overnight?

Unfortunately we cannot grant refunds if you or your child is not able to attend the overnight. We suggest you contact your group and see if there are other people who can fill your spots.

Where do we park?

Parking is in the garage across the street from the Aquarium. The height clearance at the garage is 6'10". The cost per car is \$11 (rates are set by the Camden Parking Authority and are subject to change), due as you exit the garage in the morning. The garage is locked at 7:00pm and remains locked until 7am.

When does our overnight end? Can we visit the aquarium the following day?

Guests are permitted to spend the day at the Aquarium; however all gear must be removed from the Aquarium and returned to your vehicle prior to 9am. There is no storage of gear in the Aquarium after your event. Lockers are available in the Aquarium lobby at the cost of \$3.00 each, however they are not large enough to accommodate sleeping gear.

Can we leave before the overnight officially ends?

Guests may leave the building at any time; however, the parking garage will not open until 7am. If you wish to leave at this time, please note that a shuttle will not be available to transport you to the garage.

Are we safe in the middle of Camden?

Yes, the Aquarium is locked and we have Security staff here all night long.