The mission of the Monterey Bay Aquarium is to inspire conservation of the ocean. The Aquarium is a place where people of all ages come to explore and discover the wonders of the sea. This Field Trip Planning Guide is designed to help you and your chaperones prepare for your Aquarium visit. Enjoy!

1. Our Field Trip Philosophy ................................................................. page 3-4
2. Before You Arrive ........................................................................ page 5
3. Arrival Procedures ....................................................................... page 6
4. Lunch Procedures .......................................................................... page 7
5. Behavior Expectations ................................................................. page 8
6. Helpful Information ................................................................. page 9
   ▪ Assigning Student Groups
   ▪ Nametags
   ▪ Teacher and Chaperone Communication
   ▪ Emergency Procedures
   ▪ Gift and Bookstores
7. Recruiting and Preparing Your Chaperones ................................ page 10
   ▪ Chaperone Requirements
   ▪ Preparing Your Chaperones
8. Chaperone Information (English and Spanish) ......................... page 11-12
9. Field Trip Planning Timeline ..................................................... page 13
10. Maps, Directions, Parking Information ..................................... page 14-15
11. Local Opportunities ..................................................................... page 16
12. Ocean Connections and Conservation ....................................... page 17
Our Field Trip Philosophy

The Monterey Bay Aquarium fosters students’ innate curiosity for the ocean with live ocean organisms, state-of-the-art exhibit design and a hands-on approach to teaching and learning. Here are some of the things we’ve learned, since we opened our doors in 1984 to over 2 million student visitors, that will enable you to get the most from your field trip.

Orient students to the Aquarium before arrival
Students familiar with a setting tend to learn more than those who are not. If most of your students have never visited the Aquarium before, be sure to show them an Aquarium map and the field trip orientation video on our website.
www.montereybayaquarium.org

Share field trip plan with students
We’ve learned that students who are provided with the overall plan for their field trip before they arrive are more likely to learn than those who are not. Let students know when they should expect to arrive, to have lunch and to depart. Let them know if and when they’ll be able to go to the Gift and Bookstore, what programs they will be participating in and the types of activities they’ll be doing at the Aquarium.

We’ve also learned that students who have some choice in the structure of their field trip are more likely to have a meaningful visit.

Link educational goals of field trip to your classroom
Students learn more and feel better about field trips when teachers use structured activities before and/or after an Aquarium visit to create a context for the field trip experience and link it with classroom work.
The Aquarium has a host of curriculum materials, aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), for teachers to utilize in their classrooms. You can find our curriculum materials on our website at: www.montereybayaquarium.org/education/classroom-resources/curriculum

Our suite of Self-Guided Exploration Guides provide students with fun and educational activities at the Aquarium. These guides can be found on our website at:
www.montereybayaquarium.org/education/classroom-resources/self-guided-exploration-guides

Prepare your chaperones
Prepare your chaperones before they arrive to ensure students get the most from a field trip. On field trips, your chaperones become the primary facilitators of your students overall experience while at the Aquarium.

To increase learning opportunities for your students, encourage your chaperones to take a look at the latest Aquarium map, our informative exhibits pages and additional chaperone preparation information:
www.montereybayaquarium.org/education/planning-your-field-trip

(continued on next page)
Encourage chaperones to facilitate conversations and focused observations

We have discovered that during Aquarium field trips students learn best through observations and conversations at the exhibits. Students learn from chaperones who take the time to point out fascinating animals or who ask open-ended questions (“What do you see? Why do you think that animal behaves that way?”) that encourage students to look closely at animals and exhibits.

Chaperones shouldn’t feel they need to be ocean experts! Through observation, students are often able to answer their own questions! Let your chaperones know they can seek out information from Aquarium staff and volunteer guides. Our staff and volunteers are trained to foster the natural curiosities of students.

Provide students with field trip purpose

Here are some suggestions:

- Encourage your students to generate some questions they’d like to try and answer while they’re at the Aquarium. You might find this student-driven approach to be effective!
- If you decide to generate a worksheet rather than having students create their own questions, the best questions to pose to students are those that they can answer only by looking closely at and/or thinking about the animals and living exhibits. Avoid asking questions that students can answer by just reading the text panels or those that could better be answered using the web or by reading a text book.
- Encourage your students to find a conservation issue that they care about and to learn what they can do to help while at the Aquarium.
- Have your students research a favorite Aquarium animal and its natural history and then locate the animal at the Aquarium.

Take the Aquarium back to your classroom

Doing field trip follow-up back at school is essential. It is important to do an activity or to have a discussion to wrap-up your field trip. This serves as an assessment of knowledge acquired on the field trip and provides direction on what content to focus on back at school.
Before You Arrive

Before your visit

- Check your Education Group Confirmation to make sure the information and dates are correct.

- If you did not receive an Education Group Confirmation or to make any corrections, call toll-free at (886) 963-9645 (once in the menu, press 2).

- Confirm your transportation arrangements.

- Review the Aquarium’s Behavior Expectations with your students (page 8).

- Prepare your chaperones (page 10).

- Assign student groups to your chaperones.

- Look for educational materials to use with students during your Aquarium visit, see the Education section of our website: www.montereybayaquarium.org/education or print out our Self-Guided Exploration Guides: www.montereybayaquarium.org/sgexplore.

Calculate your arrival time

Note the check-in time on your Education Group Confirmation. Staff and bus facilities are scheduled according to your assigned check-in time.

Groups arriving more than 15 minutes early may be asked to wait or may have to leave and return at the scheduled check-in time.

Groups more than 10 minutes late may be subject to program cancellation.

On the day of your trip, please call toll-free at (866) 963-9645 if you cannot make your assigned check-in time.

Teacher planning ticket

Call the Sales and Reservation Center toll-free at (866) 963-9645 to request a free Teacher Planning Ticket to familiarize yourself with the Aquarium.

Check out the new exhibits and plan the educational activities your students will do while they are visiting the Aquarium.
Arrival Information

When you arrive at the Aquarium, the first thing you’ll do is check-in with an Aquarium staff member.

If you arrive by bus, please keep your students and chaperones on the bus while you check-in with an Aquarium staff member.

If you arrive by car, gather your students and chaperones in an orderly group at the end of Hovden Way (see map page 15). When all group members have arrived, check in at the Group Arrival Station, located in Hovden Way, to meet an Aquarium staff member.

Restrooms are located on Hovden Way across from the Member’s Entrance.

Procedures
For admission to the Aquarium, school groups are required to have at least one chaperone for every 10 students. If you arrive with fewer than one chaperone for every 10 students, your group will not be admitted into the Aquarium. Upon arrival, an Aquarium staff member will:

1. Collect the following required paperwork.
   - Your Education Group Confirmation
   - Your completed and signed Behavior Contract within the Field Trip Arrival Information Packet

2. Prepare your invoice and collect fees for any additional chaperones.
   - Please know the exact number of students, chaperones and teachers in your group.
   - One chaperone is admitted free for every four children in grades K-12.
   - One chaperone is admitted free for every pre-school and student with special needs.
   - Admission for each extra chaperone is $20.00, as shown on your Education Group Confirmation and Field Trip Arrival Information packet.
   - Any chaperones arriving after your group has entered will be required to pay full admission cost.

   You must make a single payment for all additional chaperones. Purchase orders or multiple payments will not be accepted. Chaperones that have a current Aquarium member card should provide teachers with their card.

3. Issue chaperone and teacher badges to your lead teacher.
   - ALL adults must wear the Aquarium badge provided in a visible location. The badge is your “ticket” into the Aquarium. As long as students are with an adult wearing a chaperone badge, they are welcome to enter and exit the Aquarium throughout the day.

4. Reserve the picnic area for your group if you plan on eating lunch here.
   - The picnic area is reserved on the hour and half hour, giving your group 30 minutes to enter, eat and exit before another group uses the same facilities. Please be timely so as not to impede another group’s lunch reservation.
   - Staff will direct you to school group lockers if you need to store lunches.
   - See Lunch Procedures on page 7.

5. Provide your group with a brief orientation.
   - These short orientations provide your group with current Aquarium information as well as familiarize your chaperones and students with the Aquarium’s layout and behavior expectations.
   - After the orientation, staff will escort your group into the Aquarium or guide you to program meeting location.
Make lunch a learning experience
An excellent way to teach your students about having a direct impact on the environment is to challenge them to pack waste-free lunches! Consider using cloth bags or lunch boxes instead of paper bags. Choose reusable food containers, drink containers, utensils and napkins as a wise environmental choice. For more ideas log on to www.wastefreelunches.org.

Gathering lunches
Please gather all lunches in large reusable or paper bags before arriving. At the Aquarium, lunches are stored in small (16” x 23” x 30”) coin-operated lockers.

Storing lunches
When you arrive, an Aquarium staff member will direct you to a locker where you can store student lunches.

The lockers are coin-operated so be sure to bring quarters. You will need four quarters ($1) each time you access a locker.

Please do not bring food or drink into the Aquarium
School groups are not allowed to eat or drink in the Aquarium, on the benches in front of the Great Tide Pool or on any deck areas. This includes the Cafe and the seating areas outside our Cafe.

The picnic area
The Aquarium provides a shared picnic area for our school groups and reservations are made as groups arrive. Due to the unpredictable timing constraints of field trips, we are unable to reserve the picnic area for your group prior to your arrival.

The picnic area is outside between Wave Street and the Recreation Trail (see map on page 15). There are no restrooms or drinking fountains at the picnic area.

For the safety of your students and other visitors, please do not eat lunches, sit or gather your students on the Recreation Trail. Other pedestrians and bicyclists utilize this pathway and collisions may occur.

Please be sure to reserve a lunch time with Aquarium staff upon your arrival. The picnic area is reserved on the hour and half hour, giving your group 30 minutes to enter, eat and exit before another group uses the same facilities. Please be timely so as not to impede another group’s lunch reservation.

You may be asked to share the picnic area with another school group. In the spring, when school group numbers are high, the Aquarium may not be able to accommodate all requests for the picnic area. If you are visiting in the spring, you may want to consider having lunch on the bus or offsite at a park or beach before or after your visit. See page 16 for more information on local parks.

Eating lunch
When it is time for your group to eat, simply gather at your prearranged meeting place and walk to the picnic area. If your lunches are stored in the lockers, it’s a good idea to send a couple of chaperones to the locker area to retrieve them for the students.

Please keep it clean
After lunch, inspire your students to care for our planet by reminding them to clean up after themselves. Feeding birds and wildlife is discouraged as this can be harmful to animals. Students can use the trash cans and recycle containers at the picnic area to discard any leftover food or packaging.

Reentering the Aquarium
As long as students are accompanied by a chaperone wearing a chaperone badge, they are welcome to re-enter the Aquarium through any door after lunch.
Behavior Expectations

In addition to your own requirements, you are asked to review the Aquarium’s Behavior Contract with your students and chaperones. An Aquarium staff member will collect your signed copy of the Behavior Contract found within your Field Trip Arrival Information packet, included with your pre-trip email.

The Monterey Bay Aquarium is a place of learning, fun and discovery! To make sure that all visitors have a great time at the Aquarium, it is important to abide by these behavior expectations:

- Stay with your group. Students and adult chaperones must stay with their group at all times inside the Aquarium, out on the deck, in all gift and bookstores, in the picnic area and in the Cafe.
- Be courteous and respectful of other visitors. Talk quietly and walk through the Aquarium; running is not permitted.
- Use the stairs, leaving elevators available for those who need them. For your safety, please no playing on the escalator and always ride facing forward.
- Be respectful of the Aquarium exhibits and building. Use notebooks or clipboards to write against, instead of walls, windows or exhibit labels. Climbing on exhibits or railings is not allowed.
- Help care for the animals. At touch pool areas, touch the animals gently and always keep them under the water. Do not disturb exhibit animals by tapping on the windows. Feeding birds and wildlife is discouraged as this can be harmful to animals.
- Keep food, drinks and gum outside the Aquarium. School groups are not allowed to eat sack lunches or drink beverages in the Aquarium, on the benches in front of the Great Tide Pool or on any deck areas. This includes the Cafe and the seating area outside the Cafe dining area.
- While acting as a chaperone on a field trip, adults should not purchase or consume alcohol.
- If permitted, shop for souvenirs in the Ocean Discovery store and stay with chaperones.
- Please respect our Aquarium neighbors. If groups are permitted to visit merchants on Cannery Row, please make sure they are accompanied by chaperones and demonstrate appropriate behavior.
Helpful Information

Assigning student groups
We recommend that student groups are assigned prior to arriving at the Aquarium. Please remember we require at least one chaperone for every 10 students. If you arrive with fewer than one chaperone for every 10 students, your group will not be admitted to the Aquarium. Chaperones must be at least 21 years of age. We have found that a group size of four or five students working with one chaperone is most effective.

Nametags
All students must wear nametags that include the school name and the name of the teacher. Listing the student’s name on the nametag is optional. We recommend nametags that adhere to the students’ clothing or hang around their neck.

Teacher and chaperone communication
Communication between chaperones and teachers is vital to a well-organized field trip. Please be sure to provide all chaperones with the lead teacher’s contact information and you may choose to collect chaperone contact information as well. It may be beneficial to provide your chaperones with a number to the school in case of an emergency.

Emergency procedures
Students should know they can ask for help at the Information Desk or can ask anyone wearing a Monterey Bay Aquarium name badge or uniform for assistance. If a student gets lost, go to the Information Desk near the Main Entrance. If a student gets injured, ask anyone wearing an Aquarium name badge to call Security and an Aquarium officer will report to the location of the injured person. Teachers are responsible for communicating with their school officials in the event of a student injury.

In the rare event of an emergency requiring the evacuation of the Aquarium, all students, teachers and chaperones should exit the building at the closest available exit and meet on the Recreation Trail. Please be prepared to follow all instructions from Emergency Response Team representatives while organizing your group. You are expected to line up together by school name. Account for all members of your group and confirm with an Emergency Response Team representative. Teachers are responsible for communicating with their school officials if an emergency significantly impacts field trip timelines.

Gift and bookstores
Classroom teachers are eligible for a discount in the gift and bookstores when they present appropriate identification. Select educational resources are eligible for a 20% discount with an advance order. If you have any questions about merchandise or ordering, please call our Gift and Bookstore Customer Service Representatives toll-free at (877) 665-2665.

Please remember that students must be accompanied by a chaperone while shopping.

Please allow no more than ten students per chaperone in the store at a time.
Recruiting and Preparing Your Chaperones

Chaperone requirements

- One chaperone is admitted free for every four children in grades K-12.
- One chaperone is admitted free for every pre-school and student with special needs.
- Admission for each extra chaperone is $20.00, as shown on your Education Group Confirmation and Field Trip Arrival Information packet.

If you arrive with fewer than one chaperone for every 10 students, your group will not be admitted to the aquarium. All chaperones must be at least 21 years of age.

All of our school visitors, from preschool through 12th grade must stay with their chaperones at all times while inside the Aquarium. Students are not permitted to explore the Aquarium unsupervised. This policy is for the protection of your students and the safety and comfort of all visitors. School groups violating this policy will be asked to leave.

Preparing your chaperones

- Review the Behavior Contract. Provide them with suggestions and procedures for managing student groups.
- Explain the schedule for the day and how you will communicate with one another once you have arrived at the Aquarium.
- Provide each chaperone with a list of students for whom they are responsible and introduce the students to the chaperones.
- Provide each chaperone with a Chaperone Information Handout. The handout is available in English and Spanish (pages 11-12).
- Be sure your chaperones know the times and places to meet for lunch and to leave for home.
- Let the chaperones know whether or not your students will be allowed to visit the bookstore.
- If your chaperones are also driving, provide them with maps and parking information (page 14). Remember everyone must enter as a group in order to receive the school discount admission.

- Remind the chaperones that they must stay with their group at all times.
- Let them know what learning activities you have planned for the students and explain their role in those activities. Encourage chaperones to ask open-ended questions to their group while exploring exhibits.

www.montereybayaquarium.org
**Welcome!**

Being a chaperone is a great way to enjoy a visit to the Aquarium, but is an important responsibility. As a chaperone you are responsible for a group of students during their visit to the Aquarium, and you are an essential part of creating a positive experience for all involved.

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**Remember**

Your chaperone badge must be visible at all times. Your badge is your pass for exiting and re-entering the Aquarium with your group of students.

**Tips for learning**

- Encourage your students’ exploration with open-ended questions, such as: What do you see? Why do you think that animal acts like that?

- Help students find answers by looking at the exhibits, reading the labels and talking with Aquarium Guides in red-colored jackets or blue vests.

**Other information**

- If a student gets lost, go to the Information Desk near the Main Entrance.

- If a student gets injured, ask anyone wearing an Aquarium name badge to call Security and an Aquarium officer will report to the location of the injured person.

- The picnic area is outside near the Recreation Trail.

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**Schedule**

Arrival time and meeting location

Lunch time and meeting location

Departure time, meeting location

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**Behavior expectations**

The Monterey Bay Aquarium is a place of learning, fun and discovery! To make sure that all visitors have a great time at the Aquarium, it is important to abide by these behavior expectations:

- Stay with your group. Students and adult chaperones must stay with their group at all times inside the Aquarium, on the deck, in all gift and bookstores, in the picnic area and in the cafe.

- Be courteous and respectful of other visitors. Talk quietly and walk through the Aquarium; running is not permitted.

- Help care for the animals. At touch pool areas, touch the animals gently and always keep them under the water. Do not disturb exhibit animals by tapping on the windows. Feeding birds and wildlife is discouraged as this can be harmful to animals.

- Keep food, drinks and gum outside the Aquarium. School groups are not allowed to eat sack lunches or drink beverages in the Aquarium, on the benches in front of the Great Tide Pool or on any deck areas. This includes the cafe and the seating area outside the cafe dining room.

- While acting as a chaperone on a field trip, adults should not purchase or consume alcohol.

- Please respect our Aquarium neighbors. If groups are permitted to visit merchants on Cannery Row, please make sure they are accompanied by chaperones and demonstrate appropriate behavior.

- Be respectful of the Aquarium exhibits and building. Use notebooks or clipboards to write against, instead of walls, windows or exhibit labels. Climbing on exhibits or railings is not allowed.
¡Bienvenido!
Ser chaperón es una excelente manera de disfrutar una visita al Acuario, pero también es una responsabilidad importante. Tu función como chaperón será la de acompañar a un grupo de alumnos durante la visita al Acuario y es un componente esencial en crear una experiencia positiva.

Recuerda
La etiqueta de identificación de chaperón deberá estar visible todo el tiempo. Tu etiqueta de identificación te servirá para salir y entrar al Acuario en compañía de tu grupo.

Consejos para el aprendizaje
- Anime a tus alumnos a explorar con preguntas que tengan muchas respuestas, tal como: ¿Qué ves? ¿Por qué piensas que ese animal actúa así?
- Ayuda a los alumnos a encontrar respuestas observando a las exhibiciones, leyendo los rótulos y hablando con Guías del Acuario que lleven puestos sacos de color rojo o chalecos de color azul.

Información adicional
- Si algún alumno se pierde o se lastima, diríjase a el Mostrador de Información cerca de la Entrada Principal.
- Se respetuoso de las exhibiciones y el edificio del Acuario. Usa cuadernos o tablillas para escribir, en vez de apoyarte en las paredes, ventanas o rótulos de las exhibiciones. No está permitido subir las exhibiciones o barandales.
- Ayuda a cuidar los animales. En las pozas de contacto toca los animales cuidadosamente y mantén debajo del agua. No molestes a los animales dando golpeteos al vidrio de las exhibiciones. Támbien se recomienda alimentar a la vida silvestre ya que puede ser dañino para su bienestar.
- Deja comida, bebidas o chicle afuera del Acuario. No está permitido comer los almuerzos o tomar bebidas en el Acuario, en las bancos enfrente al Great Tide Pool (Gran Alberca Intermareal) o en cualquier otro lugar en las terrazas afuera. Esto incluye la cafetería y el área con asientos afuera de la cafetería.
- Maestros y chaperones son responsables por sus estudiantes. Los adultos asignados como chaperones durante un viaje escolar, no deberán comprar o consumir alcohol.
- Por favor respeta las tiendas vecinas al Acuario. Si los grupos tienen permiso de visitar a comerciantes en la calle Cannery Row, asegúrate que los alumnos estén acompañados por los chaperones y que demuestren un comportamiento apropiado.
Field Trip Planning Timeline

Six weeks before your trip

- Look for your Education Group Confirmation and Field Trip Arrival Information packet in your email inbox.

Confirm your transportation

- Duplicate and distribute maps and parking information for the bus driver and parent drivers.
- If coming with other teachers, meet to determine the schedule and learning activities for the day.

Two weeks before your trip

Confirm your chaperones

- Provide them with necessary Chaperone Information Handouts (see pages 11-12).
- Conduct pre-visit activities with students.
- If attending a Discovery Lab or Ocean Explorers Program, look for and respond to an email from an Aquarium educator.

One week before your trip

Make your lunch plans

- See page 7 of this Field Trip Planning Guide.

Collect permission slips from your students

- Bring medical records or instructions for any children who are on medication or who require special medical attention.

Gather your paperwork

- Complete and sign your School Group Entry Ticket.
- Calculate any costs for additional chaperones. If you won’t be paying for extra chaperones with a credit card or cash, prepare a single check for payment. Purchase orders are not accepted and we cannot accommodate multiple payments.

Review the behavior contract with your group

- Bring your signed Behavior Contract, located in the Field Trip Arrival Information packet.

Assign student groups

- Assign a chaperone to each group prior to your arrival.

The day of your trip

Distribute student nametags

- Introduce chaperones to the students in their groups before arriving at the Aquarium.
- If picnicking at the Aquarium, collect student lunches and place them in a large reusable bag for easy coin-lock storage (bring quarters). See page 7 for more lunch logistics.

Review your plans, expectations and schedule

- Review your plans, expectations and schedule with your students, chaperones and other teachers.
- When you arrive, select a group meeting place for lunch and/or departure and inform your students and chaperones.

Review emergency procedures with students and chaperones

- See page 9 of this Field Trip Planning Guide.
- Exchange cell phone information between all adult chaperones and teachers.
From Santa Cruz, Watsonville or Castroville
Highway 1 south.
Take the Del Monte/Pacific Grove exit, then follow the signs.

Allow one hour from Santa Cruz, 45 minutes from Watsonville, one-half hour from Castroville.

From Salinas and South County
Highway 68 west,
Highway 1 south.
Take the Monterey exit, then follow the signs.

Allow 45 minutes from Salinas, longer from points south.

From Carmel, Carmel Valley or Big Sur
Highway 1 north.
Take the Munras Avenue exit, then follow the signs.

Allow 20 minutes from Carmel, longer from Carmel Valley and points south, especially in summer.

From San Francisco Bay Area
Highway 101 south,
Highway 156 west,
Highway 1 south.
Take the Del Monte/Pacific Grove exit, then follow the signs.

Allow at least one and one-half hours from San Jose, two and one-half hours from San Francisco.

From the Central Valley
Highway 152 west,
Highway 156 west,
Highway 101 south,
Highway 156 west,
Highway 1 south.
Take the Del Monte/Pacific Grove exit, then follow the signs.

Allow at least four hours from Sacramento, three hours from Stockton, four hours from Fresno.

From all locations
After the Lighthouse Avenue tunnel, take the first right turn onto Foam Street.

For Automobiles
Pay parking lots and metered parking are available within a short walking distance from the Aquarium. See map above for locations.

For Buses
When arriving, from Foam Street or Lighthouse Avenue turn right on Prescott Avenue and left on Cannery Row. The school bus loading and unloading zone is on the right side of the street just before Hovden Way. To avoid congestion, bus drivers are asked not to drive on Cannery Row for more than one block. When departing, from Cannery Row turn left onto David Avenue and proceed to Lighthouse Avenue for departure.

Important notes for bus drivers
By ordinance of the City of Monterey, you must turn off your engine upon arrival and leave it off until you depart. The City of Monterey is issuing tickets for non-compliance with this city ordinance.

No loading or unloading is permitted on David Avenue between Wave Street and Cannery Row or in any of the Aquarium’s loading zones.
The City of Monterey and other local communities offer a multitude of opportunities to engage students in unique ways that complement a visit to the Aquarium. From wildlife viewing to exploring local beaches and parks, you can make your trip to Monterey worth the time, money and effort.

Wildlife viewing tips

Teach your students appropriate ways to observe wild animals by modeling respectful wildlife viewing behaviors:

- Maintain a safe distance to avoid disturbing the animals.
- Never try to touch or feed wild animals.
- Please do not throw objects at, yell at, chase or otherwise harass wild animals including pigeons and sea gulls.

Local learning centers

Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History
165 Forest Avenue
Pacific Grove, CA 93950
(831) 648-5716 www.pgmuseum.org

MY Museum
425 Washington Street,
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 649-6444, www.mymuseum.org

Local parks

Monterey Bay Waterfront Park/Window on the Bay
4.8-acre turf and landscaped areas adjacent to the beach. Five sand volleyball courts, picnic and BBQ facilities. Reservations for volleyball/picnic: (831) 646-3866.

Dennis the Menace Playground
Open daily 10 a.m. to dusk.
Closed on non-holiday Tuesdays, September - May. Visit the El Estero Park website for more information: http://monterey.org/en-us/Departments/Monterey-Recreation/Parks-and-Beaches/El-Estero-Park-Complex

San Carlos Beach Park & the Coast Guard Pier
2.87-acre coastline park with landscaped areas, walkways, interpretive signage, seating areas and vista points. Restrooms and access to the beach. Located on Cannery Row at the foot of Reeside Avenue. Stroll along the Coast Guard Pier and view California sea lions napping on rocks, sea birds nesting or perhaps even a sea otter swimming by!

Wildlife viewing areas

Hopkins Marine Station
Observe Harbor seals as they rest in the warm sands of Hopkins Marine Life Refuge. Just two blocks from the Aquarium off the recreation trail.

McAbee Beach City Park
0.14 acre sand beach with accessible ramp located on Cannery Row at the foot of Hoffman Avenue. Ocean views and interpretative signage on the history of the site.

California State Parks
www.parks.ca.gov
The Monterey Bay and its coastline are part of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

The Sanctuary protects the many marine habitats and plants and animals living along our coast.

Activities that could harm the ocean’s health, such as oil drilling, are prohibited.

But many others, such as fishing, boating and exploring the coastline are allowed. Visiting the rocky shore can provide you and your students with an exciting look at ocean plants and animals in their native habitat.

Exploring the rocky shore
Here are a few reminders to help keep you, your students and the tide pool animals safe and healthy.

- Watch where you step. Rocks are sharp and seaweed is slippery. By stepping carefully, you keep yourself safe and keep the plants and animals safe too.

- Look closely. Instead of picking them up, quietly stop and watch the rocky shore animals for a few minutes. You and your students will see and learn much more this way.

- Touch gently. If you do touch an animal, wet your hands first and touch it gently. Touching with dry fingers can damage delicate surfaces. If the animal tries to escape, let it go.

- Leave ocean animals in their homes. Most will die if pried from the rocks, and all of them need the oxygen from seawater to breathe. Always return animals exactly as you found them. Replace any rocks or shells that you turn over – they are homes for many animals.

- In the Sanctuary, plants and animals, rocks and shells are protected. Collecting them is not allowed, even those found high on the beach. Collection will result in fines.

- Remember to use all your senses. Close your eyes and listen to the sounds of the waves and birds; feel the cool ocean breeze; smell the salty air.

- Large waves can be dangerous, even deadly. Always keep an eye on the water and don’t turn your back on the ocean, even for a moment.

Take care at home, too
You and your students can respect and care for the ocean as part of daily life, no matter where you live.

- Watch what goes down storm drains and street gutters. Remember much of that eventually flows into the ocean.

- Keep things clean. Make sure your trash is placed in a trash can.

- Reduce, reuse and recycle what you can. Get your family to help.

- Save water. Every drop is precious.

- Save energy. Turn off lights and appliances when you’re not using them.

- Tell others what you’ve learned and what you’re doing to help the oceans.