

GEORGIA AQUARIUM INC.

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# GEORGIA AQUARIUM SLEEPOVER PROGRAM HANDBOOK



GEORGIA AQUARIUM

**“where imaginations go to play”**

Updated: June 22, 2012



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**Introduction to Sleepovers**

After everyone has gone home, and the Aquarium has closed its doors for the night, we invite you to join us for an exciting night of exploration! Georgia Aquarium offers sleepovers for families, youth groups, and adults. Guests will be able to sleep in front of one of our magnificent exhibits in our Ocean Voyager, Tropical Diver, Cold Water Quest, or River Scout galleries.

*If you have any questions related to the program, please contact us at:*

Georgia Aquarium Sleepover Team  
sleepovers@georgiaaquarium.org

David Benedict  
dbenedict@georgiaaquarium.org  
404-581-4261

**Price includes:**

- Aquarium admission with a 6:30pm entry time
- Activities, gallery and behind the scene tours
- Sleeping mat
- Dinner
- Light breakfast
- A tour guide
- Entry to Deepo's Undersea 3D Wondershow
- Entry to AT&T Dolphin Tales

## **Objectives**

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### **The Educational Objectives of the sleepover are:**

- Identify ways to protect the environment from litter and trash.
- Identify 3 features of the world's oceans and how human life benefits from the oceans.
- Understand biodiversity and why its important.
- Learn about the dynamics and variety of life found in coral reef habitats.
- Learn what steps we can all take to protect aquatic life.

### **What's included**

Every sleepover includes fun and educational activities and a guided tour of our exquisite galleries and amazing behind the scene areas. Meals are provided, along with entry to AT&T Dolphin Tales. Also, guests are able to stay and enjoy the aquarium after the sleepover has concluded.

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**Sleepover Themes**

**"Ocean Odyssey"**

This program is designed for families with children in grades 2-5. The program focuses on our aquatic animals and habitats including sharks and whales, and what we can do to help preserve these natural treasures. Get ready to explore the Aquarium through a variety of special activities, tours, animal encounters, and more!

**"Ocean Lights"**

This interactive program designed for families with middle school students, grades 6-8, takes them on a scientific journey. They will explore marine biology, which concentrates on deep ocean animal life. This includes Behind the Scenes tours and a squid dissection.

**"Scout Sleepover"**

An evening of learning for the active Girl Scout or Boy Scout exploring the wonders of water and its inhabitants! This program explores our major exhibits and discusses conservation issues to help scouts learn how to leave the Earth a better place than they found it.

**"Birthday Party"**

Come celebrate your or your child's special day by spending the night in the World's Largest Aquarium! The Birthday Party sleepover includes all the amazing experiences of our usual sleepovers and also features cake, ice cream, and a room in which to have your party!

**"Private Overnight"**

Just you, your guests, our facilitator, and the Georgia Aquarium's expansive living collection.

**"Adult Overnight"**

For groups where everyone is over 21. During this overnight experience you'll explore the mysteries of the aquarium while learning about some adult aquarium content. During the evening you'll enjoy dinner and explore behind the scenes areas.

## **Schedule and Protocol**

### **Night:**

6:30pm-7:00pm: Check-in (bring your luggage from your car)

7:00pm-7:30pm: Introduction and divide into groups

7:30pm-10:00pm: Dinner, activities, gallery and behind the scene tours, (times will vary)

10:00pm-10:30pm: Retrieve luggage and get ready for bed

11:00pm: Lights out

### **Morning:**

6:00am-7:15am: Wake up, breakfast, and return luggage (times will vary)

7:15am- 7:45am: Deepo movie

7:45am-9:30am: Activities continue

9:30am-10am: Wrap up

10:00am: Sleepover program concludes. Guests are invited to stay for regular operating hours.

The Georgia Aquarium has 24-hour security. For logistical and security reasons, there is an 8 p.m. cutoff time for late arrivals.

Unfortunately due to security protocol, anyone leaving during the evening will not be able to return. Guests may leave between 11 pm-12a.m. Unfortunately, we cannot offer a price reduction.

Guests should bring their luggage to the main entrance upon arrival. A sleepover guide will meet guests in the plaza and direct them to the Sleepover registration table. In the morning guests, may be escorted to their car in order to stow their luggage at 6:30am. Morning activities will begin promptly at 7:15am.

The sleepover program will conclude at 10am. Guests are welcome to enjoy the aquarium the next day.

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## **Reservations, Deposits, Date Changes, and Refunds**

Payment upon booking is required for groups with fewer than 10 guests, regardless of sleepover type.

For groups with more than 10 guests, a \$100 non-refundable deposit is due at time of reservation.

Please make reservations at least 3 weeks prior to program date. We will be unable to give refunds for no-shows or for leaving early. Please make the final payment 2 weeks prior to program date.

Date changes or other changes to your group size can be made up to 1 week prior to your program date. Unfortunately, we are unable to issue any refunds within 2 weeks of the program and any deposits made are also non-refundable.

## **Parking**

Please park in the aquarium parking deck. There may be independent parking vendors that try to direct you into their parking lots. Instead, look for the aquarium parking deck adjacent to our facility. This deck is monitored by security 24/7 and will be the safest and most convenient option for your vehicle. The parking deck is located on the corner of Luckie St. & Ivan Allen. It's easily recognized by the pictures of aquatic life on its exterior.

Parking is \$10 per vehicle for cars and can be pre-paid at the time of booking. If you need parking for a bus or other oversized vehicle, the Georgia World Congress Center Marshaling Yard is available for a cost of \$25 per vehicle.

*If you have any questions, please contact:*

[sleepovers@georgiaaquarium.org](mailto:sleepovers@georgiaaquarium.org)

or

David Benedict

[dbenedict@georgiaaquarium.org](mailto:dbenedict@georgiaaquarium.org)

404.581.4261

## **What to Bring**

Each person should bring a sleeping bag, pillow, and necessary personal effects (i.e. toothbrush, sleeping mask, ear plugs, etc.). You are welcome to bring an air mattress, but if you choose to do so, it should be no larger than a twin size. Please keep in mind that you will be responsible for carrying your sleepover gear from your car. You may bring electronics, but please be considerate of other guests, and though the Georgia Aquarium has 24 hour security, we will not be held liable if your items are misplaced or damaged.

Please pack light as you will have to carry everything from the car. Remember, emergency lights will be on when sleeping, so some guests prefer to bring an eye mask to block the light. Sometimes it gets cold at night, so we suggest bringing a sweater! Also, you will be using the public restrooms. We are sorry to inform that we do not have showers available.

## **What is not permitted**

For the safety of our animals, chewing gum, outside food or drinks, and weapons of any kind are not permitted. Also, smoking is not allowed in the Georgia Aquarium facility, and you will not be able to leave the building to smoke once the program begins.

## **Groups**

One Chaperone per 10 children is required. For every ten children, one adult guest pass is complimentary. Any additional adult guests are required to purchase their own tickets.

### ***Chaperones are responsible for:***

- Ensuring campers follow rules and instruction of guides
- Ensuring campers sleep where assigned
- Monitoring quiet time after 11:30pm

*Please note:*

Reservations must be made for all guests prior to arrival. Due to the preparation required to create a satisfactory experience for each guest, we are unable to add guests the day of the event.

Patches for scout troops are available for purchase in the gift shop. The gift shop will reopen when your program concludes in the morning by 10am.

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**Meals**

**Dinner**

All meals include cheese pizza, a cookie, fresh apple, bag of crackers or chips, and bottled water.

**Breakfast**

There will be a small continental breakfast consisting of muffins, fresh fruit, yogurt, and juice. Coffee will be available to adults only.

\*If you have special dietary needs, please contact the Sleepover Team at [sleepovers@georgiaaquarium.org](mailto:sleepovers@georgiaaquarium.org). You may also contact David Benedict at [dbenedict@georgiaaquarium.org](mailto:dbenedict@georgiaaquarium.org) or at 404-581-4261\*

**Sleeping set-up**

All guests will be assigned a specific sleeping area. Please respect the privacy of other guests by not entering any other areas. Sleeping assignments are based on the size of the group, number of total groups during the evening, type of group (family, school group, scout troop, etc.) and availability of galleries. Due to these factors, we are unable to guarantee preferred sleeping areas.

We're looking forward to having you!

E-mail: [sleepovers@georgiaaquarium.org](mailto:sleepovers@georgiaaquarium.org)

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Date of Event: \_\_\_\_\_ Day of Week: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: 7:00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Sleepover Order number: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Guest Count: \_\_\_\_\_

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Thank you for coming to spend the night here at the world's largest aquarium!

Your sleepover includes dinner from our in-house dining facility, Café Aquaria.

Each meal comes with the items listed to the right of this paragraph. →

For those Guests who have allergies or other dietary concerns, please contact the Sleepover team at [sleepovers@georgiaaquarium.org](mailto:sleepovers@georgiaaquarium.org) or by calling 404-581-4261 and we will discuss options we have in place for meeting your needs.

**Meals include:**

- Cheese pizza
- Cookie
- Apple
- Goldfish crackers
- Bottled water

**\*\*Please note any allergies or special requests below:**



# Georgia Aquarium – Sleepover Policies and Procedures

Group Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Visit Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Our sleepover programs include some behind-the-scenes areas and may also incorporate portions of the main aquarium. The following policies and procedures are in place for your safety as well as the safety of the animals. Please read the following information and complete the page entitled “Chaperone Agreement to Policies and Procedures.” The form must be returned at least five days prior to your visit and may be scanned and emailed to [sleepovers@georgiaaquarium.org](mailto:sleepovers@georgiaaquarium.org) or faxed to 404-581-4449.


**Please read and sign the policies and procedures below to ensure that you and your sleepover guests are properly prepared for the experience.**

Check-in is from **6:30pm to 7:00pm** on the evening of your sleepover. Please enter to the left of the Main Entrance at the **Education Entrance** or you may meet one of our volunteers at the main entrance who can assist you. Bring all luggage with you to check-in, there is a room where you can store your luggage until the end of the night. If you need to arrive early, please alert the Sleepover team at [sleepovers@georgiaaquarium.org](mailto:sleepovers@georgiaaquarium.org) or call 404-581-4261 at least 24 hours in advance so we can make arrangements.

✓ **Check-in:**

- It is very helpful for the entire group to arrive at the Georgia Aquarium at a specified time prior to your sleepover to ensure everyone is together and on time.
- Unfortunately, we cannot accept payment for additional guests outside of the Aquarium’s operating hours. If you need to add people to your group, you will need to do so prior to 5:00pm at the main entrance. Also, additions or other changes made within less than one week from your sleepover date are not guaranteed accuracy of dinner orders, due to the preparation time our café has requested.

✓ **Dolphin Tales and Deepo’s 4D Undersea Wondershow:**

- Sleepovers may schedule times for the Dolphin Tales show when booking the sleepover. Each guest will receive one ticket, included in the cost of your sleepover. If extra guests arrive on the day of the sleepover, we cannot guarantee they will be able to attend the same show time as the rest of the sleepover as show times may fill throughout the day.
  - Deepo’s 4D Undersea Wondershow is included with your admission and does not require a reservation. Shows typically run every 30 minutes, but check with the Theatre for exact showtimes at the conclusion of your sleepover.
  - Please arrive to any shows at least 15 minutes before the start time.
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# Georgia Aquarium – Sleepover Policies and Procedures

## ✓ What to Expect:

- A sleepover facilitator will confirm the number of guests prior to your sleepover by telephone, as well as go over the details of your event, and dinner order. This is your verbal confirmation to us that the details of your event are correct.
- Sleepovers include a behind-the-scenes tour led by an instructor. All guests MUST remain with their instructor throughout the sleepover for their safety.
- If guests arrive late to the sleepover, they may miss some activities but will be able to join the sleepover already in progress.
- Date changes must be made at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled sleepover.
- All deposits are non-refundable.
- Please notify us of any special needs (including food allergies) that your guests may have. With ample notice, we will do our best to accommodate reasonable requests.
- Rubber-soled shoes are recommended. Heels, flip-flops and roller shoes (shoes with retractable wheels) are not permitted in behind-the-scenes areas.
- In order to ensure the safety of our sleepover guests and the animals, we request that children and adults not touch any animals unless instructed to do so. When touching animals: always use a gentle two-finger touch. Children and adults will not be permitted at any time to pick up or grab animals. *(Please note: many of our touch pools may have shellfish residue in the water).*
- Due to the close proximity of the animals, gum chewing is not allowed in the Aquarium. We also do not allow balloons or straws in the Aquarium.
- At the end of the sleepover (or Dolphin Show if you arrived in buses), guests will need to remove all personal items from the storage area to allow for any additional events that may follow that day. If you do need luggage storage while attending the Dolphin Show, please give the Aquarium 24 hours notice to ensure accommodations can be made.

## ✓ Chaperone Responsibilities:

- One adult must be present per every 10 children for the entire duration of the Sleepover and activities.
- Instructors and facilitators are responsible for the discipline and welfare of their students. Horseplay is not allowed. In order to ensure the safety of our guests and the animals, we have a strict “no horseplay” policy.
- Each group will have one instructor. It is the chaperone’s responsibility to make sure that all kids stay in the group and are following the outlined guidelines.
- It is the chaperones’ responsibility to be attentive to the kids and aid the instructor by keeping the group together and respectful.



# Georgia Aquarium – Sleepover Policies and Procedures

## Chaperone Agreement to Policies and Procedures

Lead contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Visit Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student Total \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Total \_\_\_\_\_

Please list names of accompanying adults attending program (first and last name). If your number of adults exceeds the space provided below, please attach additional pages as needed.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**ATTENTION** Please scan and email this signed form to [sleepovers@georgiaaquarium.org](mailto:sleepovers@georgiaaquarium.org) or fax to 404-581-4449 at least five days prior to your visit

I have read the above Policies and Procedures with all participants and accept responsibility for their behavior during our visit to the Georgia Aquarium. I understand that the Georgia Aquarium reserves the right to ask the group to leave if we violate this contract.

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_