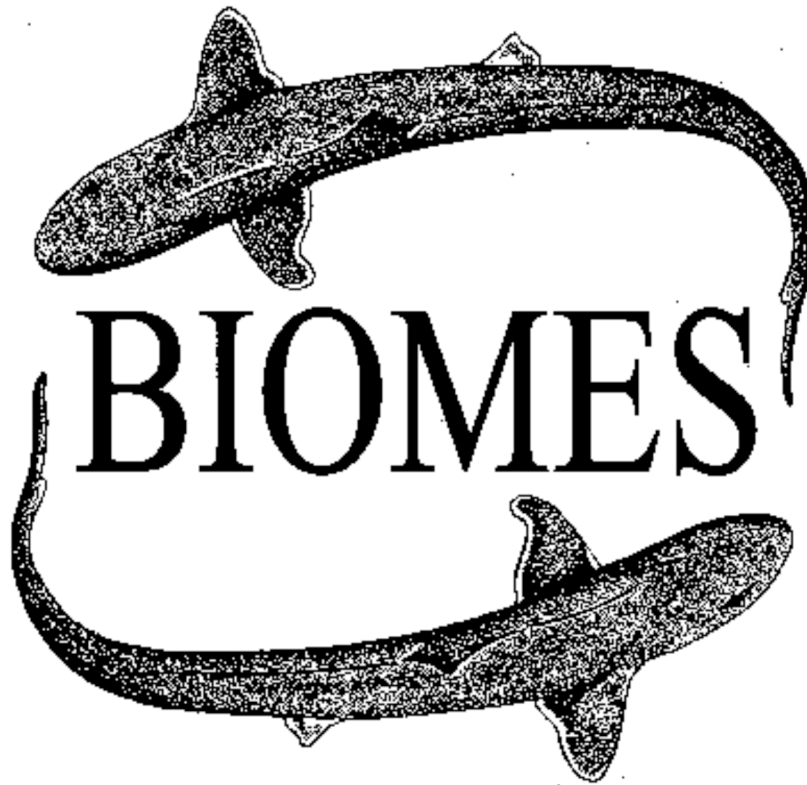


BIOMES CENTER FIELD TRIP

One-Hour Tour

TEACHER'S GUIDE



MARINE BIOLOGY CENTER
221 SHADY LEA RD.
NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI 02852

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PLEASE GIVE ONE COPY OF THIS PAGE TO EACH
ADULT CHAPERONE BEFORE ARRIVAL.

BIOMES MARINE BIOLOGY CENTER
TEACHER AND CHAPERONE GUIDELINES

As a chaperone you will not need to have any prior knowledge of marine animals. All information to answer the questions will be found at the exhibits.

Follow these guidelines to help make the most of this experience:

1. Students should be divided into 6 - 8 groups, each group with at least one adult. Your group will be given a clipboard with activity sheets which will guide them through the stations.
2. There are 12 stations in the building. Each group will start at a different station. Our staff will tell you where to start. Simply follow the order that your clipboard sheets are in.
3. Keep your group together and at the station you are working on at all times. Students will not be allowed to roam about the building.
4. Please be sure that students handle animals gently at petting tanks. **No hand sanitizers allowed.** This will kill the animals if used while students are touching the animals.
5. **Stations should only have one group working on them at a time.** Move at your own pace but try not to keep the group behind you waiting. Watch the next station to be sure the other groups have moved on.

Above all, have fun! There is lots for the adults to learn about as well.

Field Trip Permission Form

The students at _____ School will participate in an educational field trip to the Biomes Marine Biology Center on:

Date: _____

Times: _____

The Biomes Center is located in North Kingstown, RI. It is a hands-on private aquarium that will be open only to our school during this visit. You may visit their website for more information at www.biomescenter.com.

Biomes does not have a gift shop, however tee shirts with their “shark petting” logo on them are offered at a discount for school groups. Please indicate the size you would like so we can give their staff a total for our group. Shirts are \$10 each.

Please enclose the following amount to cover the cost of this trip: _____

Teacher Notes:

Please clip the below section and return it to your child’s teacher.

My son / daughter, (student's name) _____, may participate in this educational field trip.

Parent Signature _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

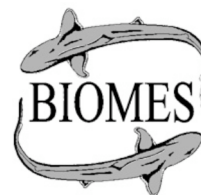
Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Tee shirt:

No _____

Yes _____ Size: child’s small (6-8) _____ med 10-12 _____ lg (14-16) _____



Welcome to the BIOMES Marine Education Center. Our facility is open to scheduled groups only. Because we are not a public aquarium our center is designed to provide a quality hands-on learning experience for your students.

PROGRAM FORMAT

We take up to 60 students per program, although 40-45 students is an ideal group size. We require **one adult per 4-7 students** (see chaperone responsibilities below). K and pre-k programs last one hour.

Students should be divided into groups of 4-7 students and one adult (**up to eight groups total**). Assign groups ahead of time so we can start right away. Each group will be given a clipboard with the activities to help guide students through our exhibits. We will bring in each group in turn and get them started at a learning station until all students are in the building.

Note that for small groups (generally 20 students or less), we may choose to not use clipboards and instead give the students a staff-guided tour of the center.

Parking

Upon arrival, please have the bus driver stop the bus at the third door in of the large brick mill to the right as you enter (just before our lot). Our staff will be looking for you and will meet you there to provide the bus driver with turn around and parking instructions.

Please have students remain on the bus until a staff member meets your class. This will ensure an orderly and efficient entrance into the center, and allow us give students and chaperones an orientation before the field trip starts.

We do not allow any food or drinks in the building.

DIRECTIONS

From 95 South (Providence, Worcester)

Follow 95 South to exit 9 (Rt 4 South, North Kingstown). Follow Rt 4 for 7-8 miles. Route 4 takes a hard bend to the right and becomes Route 1 South. Proceed south to the overpass and take the exit for Route 1 North (sign says “138 East, Jamestown, Newport”). Once you take the exit, follow the signs for Route 1 North. Once on Rt 1 North, stay in the right hand lane. Turn right onto Shady Lea Rd. Follow to the old brick mill. Biomes is the gray building behind the mill.

*** This is a new “jug-handle” style turnaround procedure to change direction from Rt 1 South to Route 1 North that replaces the old crossover. You now must be on Rt 1 N to turn onto Shady Lea Rd.**

From 95 North (Westerly, Connecticut)

Take 95 North to Route 138 East (URI, Kingston). Follow Route 138 for about 12 miles. About 3 miles after the URI campus go left at lights onto Route 1 North (Mobile station on right).

Follow Route 1 for about 2 miles and take a right onto Shady Lea Rd. just before the first set of lights. Follow Shady Lea Rd. to the large brick mill on the right. Take the dirt mill driveway. The center is in the blue building behind the mill.

From the Newport Bridge (Newport, Fall River)

Follow route 138 East through Portsmouth and Middletown to the Newport Bridge (toll bridge). Follow route 138 through Jamestown and go over the Jamestown Bridge. Stay on Route 138 for 2 miles to the end. Take the Route 1 North exit (Providence).

Follow Route 1 North for about 1/4 mile and take a right onto Shady Lea Rd. before the first set of lights. Follow Shady Lea Rd to the large brick mill on the right. Take the dirt mill driveway. The center is in the blue building behind the mill.

LEARNING STATIONS

Our center is made up of 12 learning stations. Each station is labeled and color coded and each has a common theme (Feeding, Habitats etc.). Each group will start at a different station and rotate through the building.

ACTIVITIES

If your group is using clipboards, these will include very basic explanations of what each station has to offer. They may include “find the _____” type questions or simply hints on how to pet or handle certain animals.

TANK CARDS

There are over 200 “tank cards” in the center. These are generally used for older group activities, but you may use them to help identify the animals for your students.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHAPERONES

We require that at least one adult accompanies each group of students. This frees our staff to spend time with each group and conduct various demonstrations throughout the program. Please have one adult per 4-7 students. (remember there is a maximum of eight groups.) Classroom teachers may choose to float from group to group with our staff. In this case at least ten adults is recommended.

If your group is using clipboards, the chaperones should use the information sheets to briefly explain to the students what the exhibits are about. No prior knowledge of marine life is needed.

RULES

Most of our display tanks are covered. Still, for the safety of our animals, please note these rules. To provide an effective and orderly learning experience our staff will insist on adherence to them.

1. No food or drink is allowed during the program.
2. Do not reach into any tank unless instructed. Our non-touch tank fish are used to being fed in captivity and anything placed in the water (including fingers) are considered to be food.

3. Do not drop anything into the water. This can harm fish or pollute the tanks. Absolutely no hand sanitizers should be allowed in the building. These products are very toxic to fish and crustaceans.

4. Stay in your groups (we do not allow students to wander around the building). Although students may see things throughout the building that they may want to see right away, all stations will be visited in turn.

SHARK PETTING TANK

Our sharks are a small species called a dogfish. They are bottom feeding scavengers with tiny, blunt teeth. They are completely harmless. Students will be instructed on how to touch them.

IMPORTANT: All students will get a chance to pet the sharks and hold the animals at the touch tanks. Once they have done so we will discourage return visits to these stations. Please help us enforce this policy. Remember that these animals are visited by hundreds of students each week. Handling animals is very stressful and we work hard to keep them healthy for everyone to enjoy.

RESTROOMS

A handicap accessible restroom is available in the building.

BILLING

We will make up a bill during your visit. You may bring a check with you or mail it afterwards (net 30 days).