

Planning your Overnight at Great Lakes Aquarium



Planning your visit:

Beginning to Plan

Hello!

Thank you for planning an Overnight with the Otters at Great Lakes Aquarium! As you are planning, please use this packet to help you with the details of your day. Included is a planning checklist, what to expect upon your arrival, visitor guidelines, sleeping protocol, chaperone expectations, and an optional name tag template for you. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call the Learning Program Manager at 218-740-2000 and ask to speak to the education department. We're excited to meet you!



Pre-trip Curriculum

We are always happy to help you find activities, lessons or curriculum that support your visit. Please contact us via email: education@glaquarium.org or phone: 218-740-2000 for more information.

Before your Overnight

We encourage your group to explore our website, www.glaquarium.org, prior to your visit. On that site, you will find exhibit and species information to help prepare your group for exploring our facility.

Our goal is to provide a safe, fun, and educational experience for all who visit with us. Preparing both children and adults for what to expect enhances their time at GLA. As mentioned in the previous section, we are happy to work with teachers and group leaders to integrate your visit with your current curriculum. Contact us before or after your visit for resources, lessons, and curriculum connection ideas.

Pricing Overview

<u>Ticket</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Child	\$40
Adult	\$20

- **Your ticket includes** touchpool encounters, a nocturnal animal creature feature, an evening snack and a continental breakfast.
- Overnights cost a **minimum of \$700, or \$40/child | \$20/adult**, whichever is the greater amount.
- We also require that your **roster of participants** and **signed participant waivers** be submitted at least two weeks before your visit. The remaining payment is due in one lump sum when you arrive

We require the following numbers of chaperones for overnights:	
Ages Pre K-K	1 adult per 3 students
Grades 1-8	1 adult per 5 students
Grades 9-12	1 adult per 10 students

Planning your visit:

Group Leader Check-list

1 month before your overnight

- Give a copy of our waiver to every participant (both child and adult) to sign. There is a place on the waiver for participants to note any special dietary needs.
- Collect signed waivers.
- Collect fees from participants if applicable.

2 weeks before your overnight

- Submit your roster of participants and signed waivers at least 2 weeks in advance of your overnight. This allows us to check for food allergies and expedites the check-in process.
- Discuss the schedule of events (page 4) with your group.
- Prepare your chaperones for their critical role by providing them with a copy of Chaperone Expectations (page 4). Add your own rules and expectations as necessary.
- Name tags – We strongly suggest making name tags for all of your participants. It is both helpful for our staff and your chaperones who are unfamiliar with the students attending.

1 week before your overnight

- Contact us if there are significant changes to the numbers of individuals in your group. You will only be charged for those who actually attend the overnight.
- Review your expectations with your students and adults.

The day of your overnight

Make sure you have:

- Group payment in one lump sum
- Hard copies of all waivers, if you sent electronic versions
- A roster of participants
- For each participant:** Sleeping bag, sleeping mat, toiletries, medications, flashlight, pajamas, change of clothes



Please arrive at Great Lakes Aquarium at **6:30PM**. You will want to **eat dinner before arriving** (a snack will be served at 9:00PM).

You will NOT have to pay for parking – let the parking attendant know you are here for the overnight.

Your visit will be facilitated by an Aquarium educator, who will welcome your group and go over the schedule and guidelines for your stay.

Planning your Overnight:

During your stay

OVERNIGHT SCHEDULE

(note: all animal encounters are contingent on animal health needs)

6:30PM Welcome and Check-In

- Process final payment
- Ensure each participant has signed waiver

7:00PM Explore exhibits!

7:00PM Bamboo Shark/Horseshoe Crab Touchpool Open

7:30PM Moon Jelly/Tidepool Touchpool Open

8:00PM Sturgeon Touchpool Open

8:30PM Creature Feature: Nocturnal Animal (Giant African Millipede, Ball Python, or Striped Skunk)

9:00PM Snack (crackers, cheese, fruit, veggies, dip, juice)

9:30PM Explore & lights out to find campsite*

TBD Official 'bedtime'

IN THE MORNING...

6:00AM Coffee ready for adults

6:45AM Wake-up announcement

7:00AM Breakfast (bagels, cream cheese, cereal, fruit, juice)

8:00AM Pack up gear

8:30AM Scavenger hunt!

9:00AM Explore aquarium or depart!

10:00AM *Gift shop open/Aquarium open to regular admission guests*

*How do I select a campsite at the aquarium?

You must wait until after the evening snack to select and set up your campsite.

2 – Campsites must have TWO exits

1 – Campsites must have at least ONE adult

0 – Campsites must be within view of ZERO birds

Planning your Overnight:

During your stay

CHAPERONE EXPECTATIONS

Chaperones, you make this visit possible! Thank you for volunteering your time to help make this a memorable visit for your group.

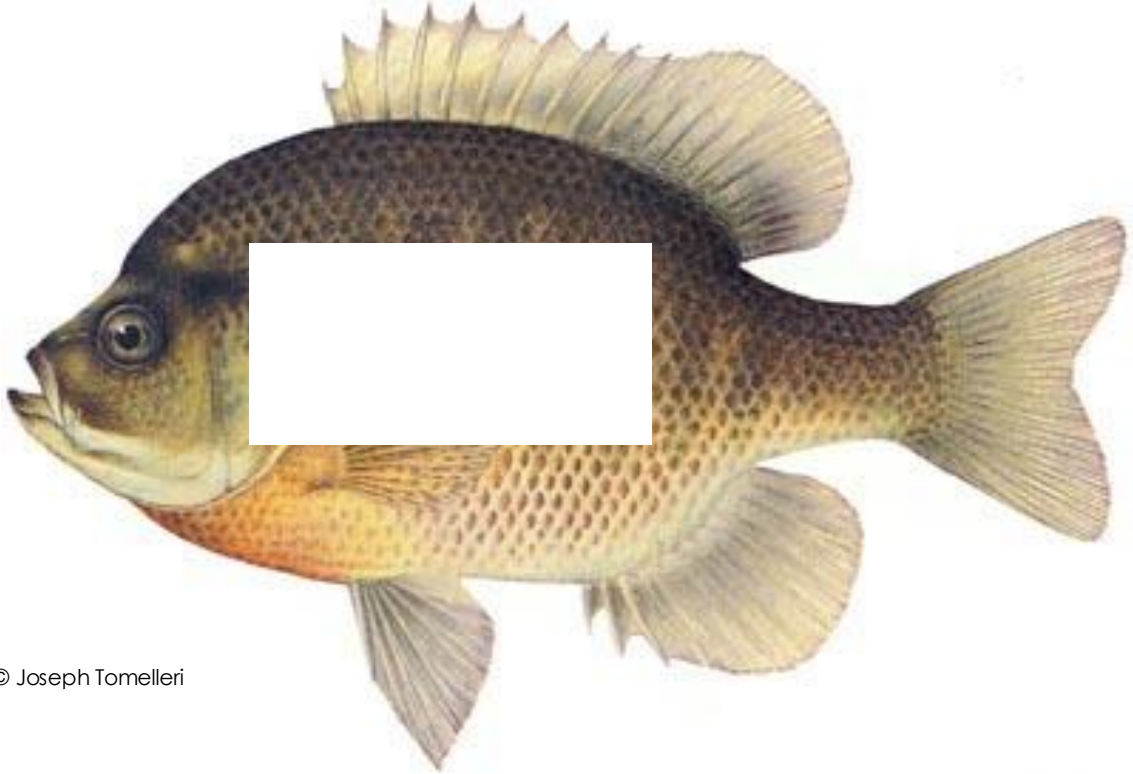
There must be chaperones present on the exhibit floor while children are exploring - adults are responsible for actively supervising program participants at all times. Aquarium staff will not be available for participant supervision.

Chaperones will be called upon to enforce the following rules:

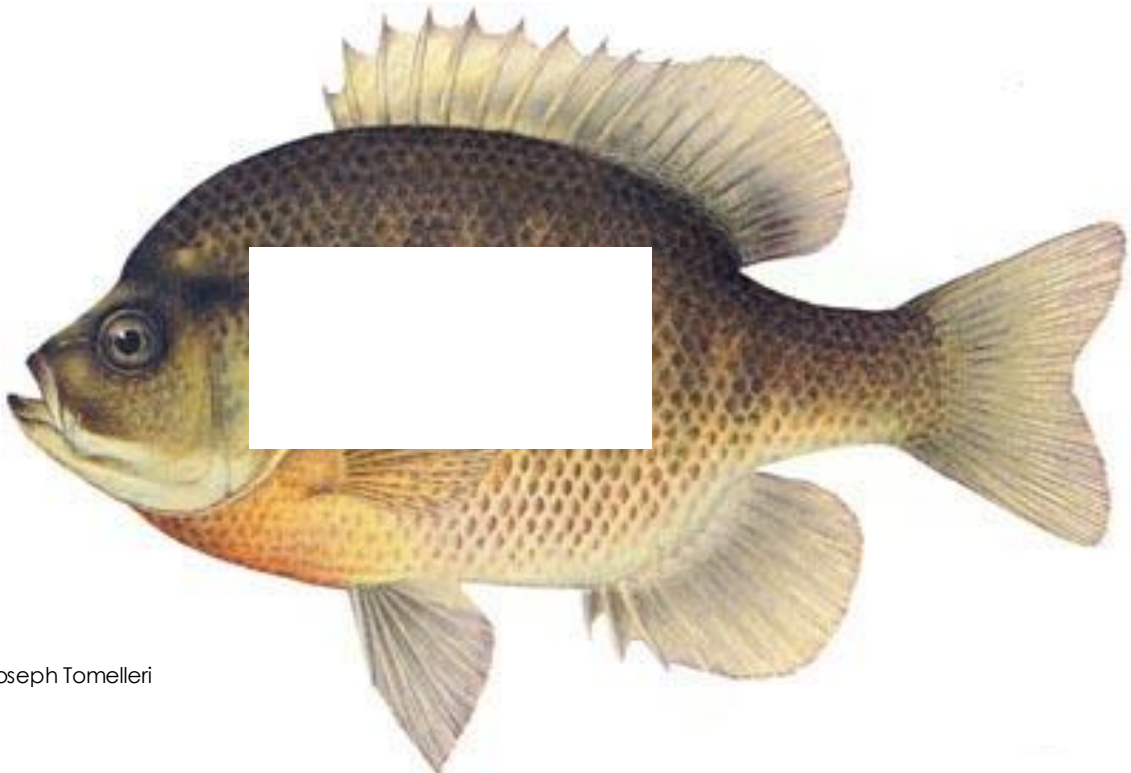
- Use **walking** feet at all times
- Shoes must be on at all times (except when you are sleeping)
- Take plenty of pictures, but be sure to turn off your flash!
- **Travel up** only on the escalator
- Aquarium doors are **locked** after 7PM. If you arrive late or need to get something from your car during the evening, you must identify somebody in your group to let you back inside.
- There is a radio available to contact Aquarium staff if necessary – it will be on the ticketing counter.
- In case of a fire or other emergency, chaperones should help guide the group to gather in the parking lot.
- Campsites must have at least two exits, at least one adult, and must be out of the view of birds.
- Have fun!

Planning your Overnight:

Optional Name Tag Templates



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