



Field Trip

Information



**Great
Lakes**
AQUARIUM

Plan the perfect visit for your class

Explore the exhibit hall, take an Aquarium class, or do both!

Explorer: Let curiosity be your guide as your class explores everything the Aquarium has to offer.

Highlights of a self-guided tour include:

- Visit one of the touch pools
- Attend an interpretive program
- Play in the Freshwater Forest tree house

Dive in Deeper: Add a class taught by an Aquarium educator.

Benefits to classes include:

- MN Science Standards Aligned classes
- Flexible class sizes with up to three classes taught concurrently (25 students per class)
- Classes accommodate a wide range of interests from grades K-12

School group rates



Explorer

Students (grade K-12): \$5

Teachers and school staff: FREE

Chaperones: 1 free chaperone per 5 students | Additional Adults: \$5
Grades K-8 need 1 adult per 5 students. Grades 9-12 need 1 adult per 10 students.

Dive in Deeper

Add a class

\$50 per class (maximum 25 students per class)

Ask about scheduling multiple classes for more than 25 students.

Other ways for schools to connect

Classroom Visits

Classes and animals can come to you! We provide classroom visits in schools, youth centers, and outdoor festival settings. Explore a list of available classes on our website, or contact the Learning Team at fieldtrips@glaquarium.org
Cost: \$75 for the first hour; \$55 for each subsequent hour.

Teacher Resource Center

Free curriculum and materials to teach activities aligned to MN state standards. Lesson plans can be used before a visit to build excitement or as a follow-up to build on your Aquarium experience. Check out our website for more information or call (218) 740-2000.

Educator Professional Development

Great Lakes Aquarium can provide educators tools to incorporate place-based education and current scientific research with students. Check out our website for more or call (218) 740-2000.

A day at Great Lakes Aquarium

Times and activities may vary.

Explorer Sample Day

- 10:15 a.m.** Arrival and welcome
- 10:30 a.m.** Explore exhibit hall in small groups
- 11:30 a.m.** Gather in lobby for lunch
- 12:00 p.m.** Depart Great Lakes Aquarium

Dive in Deeper Sample Day

- 10:15 a.m.** Arrival and welcome
- 10:30 a.m.** Attend class with Aquarium staff
- 11:30 a.m.** Gather in lobby for lunch
- 12:00 p.m.** Explore exhibit hall in small groups
- 1:30 p.m.** Depart Great Lakes Aquarium

Classes	Pre-K	K-2	3-5	6-8	9-12
Busy, Busy Bees Many people may get nervous around bees, but they are an important part of nature and our lives. Students will explore bee lives through movement, station exploration, and dramatic play.					
Fantastic Frogs Hop, jump, plop! Frogs are fantastic with their slimy skin and watery ways. Learn to sing like a frog, practice your jumping, and learn about their special changing life.					
Snouty Seahorses What is it like to be a seahorse? What do they eat? Learn more about the unique lives of seahorses through music, movement, literature, hands-on activities, and art.					
Creature Feature Which animals call the Great Lakes home? Students investigate the five major groups of vertebrates, the special features they have in common, and what makes them each different.					
Stories in Stone If you know what to listen and look for, rocks can tell all kinds of stories. What are they made of and how do they form? How can you tell them apart? Students learn to identify local rock samples from the shores of Lake Superior and rock out in our "geo-theater".					
Water on the Move Where does water go? Students become a drop of water and travel through the water cycle on an amazing journey. Learn more about the ways we use, enjoy, and protect water resources.					
Run for Your Life Cycle Students become lake sturgeon traveling a migration route through an obstacle course depicting sturgeon habitat. Dangers accompany migration - the lake sturgeon encounter both natural and human-induced obstacles as they grow to adulthood and return to spawning grounds.					
Behind the Scenes Tour (limit 15 students per tour) What keeps Great Lakes Aquarium fish habitats looking so healthy? How do we feed all these animals? Follow a drop of water through the Aquarium's life-support system to understand the process of keeping the water clean. Visit the kitchen where otter and fish food are prepared.					
Lake Superior Ecology Students act out a Lake Superior food chain to discover adaptations and migrations that enable life in Lake Superior to thrive, then they will collect and examine water samples.					
Lake Superior Limnology Students will connect-the-dots between the physical, chemical, and biological properties of Lake Superior. The lake comes to life as students conduct experiments on lake turnover, build models of human influences on trophic states, and perform a theatrical production of nutrient cycling.					

Frequently Asked Questions

How much time do we need to explore the exhibit hall?

We recommend at least an hour and a half.

How much time do we need to explore AND take a class?

Please plan to be at the Aquarium for at least two and a half hours.

Can the students visit the gift shop? Yes. We ask that students enter the gift shop in small, chaperoned groups. If you do not want your students to visit the gift shop, let the Aquarium Educator know and we will help communicate and enforce this request.

Can we park in the Aquarium lot? Yes. School groups receive free parking for all vehicles. You are welcome to leave your vehicles in our lot during your entire day on the waterfront. Chaperones driving separately can request a free parking pass at the ticketing counter upon arrival.

Can we eat lunch at the Aquarium? Yes. You are welcome to bring bag lunches with you. Our available lunch space is picnic-style seating in the Aquarium lobby. Please indicate the need for indoor lunch space during the reservation process and a time and location will be assigned to your group.

Who counts as a teacher? All school staff are considered teachers and admitted free of charge.

Who counts as a chaperones? Chaperones are responsible for touring with school children and are an important part of a positive learning experience. We ask that chaperones be at least 18 years of age. School groups receive a ratio of one free chaperone per five students. Additional chaperones receive a discount on admission. **We require 1 adult per 5 students for grades K-8 and 1 adult per 10 students for grades 9-12.**

How can we pay for our visit? You can pay with cash, check, or credit card upon arrival. Alternatively, Great Lakes Aquarium can send an invoice after your visit. We do not invoice in advance because your amount due changes based on attendance.



Book a visit today!

Email: fieldtrips@glaquarium.org

Phone: (218) 740-2000

Online: glaquarium.org/fieldtrips

Please have the following information ready when you contact us:

- Preferred dates of visit (1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice)
- Preferred arrival time
- Preferred class option (if applicable)
- Age or grade level of students
- Total number of students/teachers/chaperones/bus drivers
- Preferred lunch time (if applicable)
- Contact information for the lead teacher
- Best time and method to reach you (i.e. phone or email)

Discover more resources for your classroom!

Great Lakes Aquarium can support you in your classroom, our out in the field.

Online: glaquarium.org/education

- Field trip planning packet
- Bus fund transportation grants
- Free lending library of learning kits
- Free downloadable curriculum
- Age-appropriate scavenger hunts

