Shark in the Dark Overnight Program
Frequently Asked Questions

Do you run Overnight Programs every weekend?
No. Overnight Programs run only on pre-arranged nights. See our website for a full schedule.

Are there specific nights just for Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts?
No, all evenings are co-ed. If you require a sleeping area that is NOT co-ed, please contact us and indicate this on your Roster form.

What ages do you allow?
The Overnight Program is designed for children ages 6-12. Due to insurance restrictions, any children under 6 are unable to attend. Children over the age of 12 are welcome to attend, but please note that activities may be geared for younger children and anyone under the age of 18 must be supervised by an adult chaperone. No adult only groups will be permitted to attend.

What is your adult to child ratio?
We require 1 adult per every 5 children attending the program.

Where will we be sleeping?
Guests will be placed in sleeping areas in front of exhibits that are appropriate to the size of their group. No requests for sleeping areas will be accepted. Overnight Program guests will receive their sleeping assignments at 10:30 pm the night of their program. Due to safety concerns, guests will not be given sleeping assignments early. Please prepare the children in your group accordingly. We cannot send sleepy children to bed any earlier than 10:30pm.

What kind of accommodations can we expect?
The Overnight Program is an exciting adventure that lacks some of the comforts of home. For your safety, the Aquarium is never completely dark. Within a large group, it is rarely totally quiet. We urge you to bring sleep masks and earplugs if these things are an issue for you. Necessities like bathrooms and water fountains may not be located in close proximity to your group during the night. For your comfort, we suggest a bedtime bathroom run before lights out.

What should we bring?
Please refer to the “What to Bring” document. Please keep in mind that you are responsible for carrying your own gear from the Parking Garage to the Aquarium, from our storage area to your assigned sleeping area, and back to your car in the morning. We strongly suggest packing lightly! We suggest no more than one backpack and sleeping bag for each member of your group.

How do we find the Aquarium?
Visit www.adventureaquarium.com for directions. If using a GPS or internet mapping program, please use the address 1 Riverside Drive, Camden, NJ 08103.
**Can we bring air mattresses?**

All air mattresses must be no larger than twin size, **regardless of how many people will be sharing them**. Guests that bring air mattresses larger than twin size will be asked to deflate them. Cots and lawn chairs are also not permitted. Guests that bring these items into the Aquarium will be asked to leave them in the lobby to be picked up in the morning.

**Can we bring our own food?**

Outside food and drinks (other than bottled water) are not permitted in the Aquarium, unless a member of your group has special dietary needs (please call or email prior to your program to alert us of this!).

**Please plan on eating dinner prior to your arrival.**

**What should we wear?**

Guests should wear warm, comfortable clothes and dress in layers. Please keep in mind that there are no shower facilities or changing rooms available. We suggest wearing clothes that would be comfortable to sleep in, such as sweats, pajama pants and slip on shoes. Guests should wear shoes throughout the event, and may not walk around the aquarium in bare feet, especially in the rest rooms.

**How do you handle late arrivals?**

**The arrival time for all Overnight Programs is between 6pm and 6:45pm.** It is strongly recommended that your group arrive on time. The Camden Parking Authority will close the garage at 7:00 p.m. sharp and parking for late arrivals is not secure. Our security and courtesy procedures are designed to accommodate guest arrivals up until 6:45pm. We are not able to reschedule activities (i.e. Behind the Scenes Tours, Ocean Realm Show) for late groups the night of the event. In addition, the shuttle will not be available for late arrivals.

Keep in mind that if members of your group are late:
- There are no longer attendants to point them to proper parking and unloading
- The shuttle from the parking area is no longer running
- There is no one at the Information desk to hand out schedules and unite them with your group
- They may not be able to park in the secured parking garage
- They may miss scheduled activities such as the Behind the Scenes Tours and other talks and shows

If it is unavoidable that you arrive after the Check-In time, you may park in the unsecured open parking lot **At Your Own Risk**. This lot is unmonitored at night. It is located across the street from the garage building, closer to the Bridge. Follow the brick walkway around the building towards the River to the Aquarium doors. If, upon your arrival, you find that the Aquarium doors have been locked for the night, please contact a member of your group via cell phone, so that they may alert Security to let you in.
What does snack/breakfast consist of?
Snack – assorted snacks, juice, coffee and tea.
Breakfast - cereal & milk, Danish or muffins, yogurt cups, juice, coffee and tea

What kind of deposit do you require?
A 15% non-refundable deposit is due two weeks after you reserve space, and the remaining balance is due based on the payment schedule found in your contract.

Can we get a refund on our final payment if members of our group can no longer attend after payment is made?
No. All final payments are non-refundable. If members of your group can no longer attend, you are responsible for finding replacements for them and must call or email the Center to update your roster.

Do Adventure Aquarium Passport Members get a discount?
No, there are no discounts available for the program at this time.

What if my number of participants changes?
Notify us immediately of any increases in your numbers so we may make the proper arrangements. Increases after final payments have been made will be made on a space available basis up until the Monday prior to your program date. However, if you have a reduction in your participants after we have received your final payment, your numbers are locked in. We cannot offer refunds so we suggest you find siblings or other adults to then fill open spaces.

What are the procedures for weather related cancellation?
If the Center needs to cancel an Overnight Program due to inclement weather, you will be notified by noon the day of your program. Group leaders will be emailed as soon as the decision is made, and the Overnight Hotline (856-361-1018) voicemail will be updated to reflect the decision. We will then call group leaders to verify they have received our email. Please do not call the Aquarium to see if the event has been cancelled. Please ask your chaperones to refrain from calling the Aquarium to see if the event has been cancelled. If you have not heard from us by 2pm the day of your program, please call 856-361-1018 to listen to the voicemail message.

If the event is cancelled, we will try to reschedule your group per the terms of your contract. If we cannot find a suitable event time, we will offer a full refund. If your group initiates the cancellation, we cannot refund any money.

Can I get a refund if my child is sick and cannot attend the overnight?
Unfortunately we cannot grant refunds if you or your child is not able to attend the Overnight. We suggest you contact your group and see if there are other people who can fill your spots.

Where do we park?
Parking is in the Waterfront Garage at 10 Delaware Ave Camden, NJ 08103 across the street from the Aquarium. The height clearance at the garage is 6’10”. The cost per car is $11 (rates are set by the Camden Parking Authority and are subject to change), due as you exit the garage in the morning. The garage is locked at 7:00pm and remains locked until 7am. Guests must place the provided placard in their car so Garage Security knows that you are an Overnight guest. These placards will be emailed to group leaders the Tuesday prior to your event.

When does our Overnight end? Can we visit the aquarium the following day?
Wake up call is 7 am. All gear must be removed from the Aquarium and returned to your vehicle by 9 am. Shuttles will help you transport your gear between 7-9 am. Guests may leave before 7 am, however, shuttles will not be available until 7 am. Guests are permitted to visit the Aquarium the following day.