

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Dive with the Sharks

Why did The Florida Aquarium initiate this program?

The Dive with the Sharks program was initiated to dispel the commonly held myth that sharks are man-eaters. Our goal is to educate, inspire and facilitate a greater understanding of these amazing animals through a personal interactive experience!

Where does the Dive with the Sharks program take place?

You will be diving in our Coral Reef exhibit, the largest exhibit at The Florida Aquarium. This exhibit is 70-76° F, about 22 feet at maximum depth, and holds 500,000 gallons of natural sea water. In addition to our sharks, this exhibit houses a green sea turtle, many species of common coral reef fishes, and other reef predators such as moray eels, groupers, and barracuda.

Is it safe?

Of course! Our animals are not aggressive and are acclimated to having divers in their home every day. To allow the closest observations of the animals as possible, the dive program is guided by a dive master in the water and is not a free swim. Our dive masters are trained in CPR, first aid and emergency oxygen administration. Additionally, for safety, divers are not allowed to touch or feed the animals.

Will I be swimming alone?

Each experience can accommodate up to two participants, and each participant will have a designated dive master guide. You are allowed to buy both participant slots at one program time to dive alone.

What are the requirements to participate?

You must be age 15 or older; divers under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. You also must be a certified SCUBA diver, and proof of SCUBA certification from a nationally or internationally recognized organization must be provided, along with photo identification. If you are not a certified diver, you are welcome to participate in our Swim with the Fishes program.

What is included in the program and what is the cost?

The program includes Aquarium admission, a 30 minute dive in our Coral Reef exhibit, an educational session on our animals and conservation, t-shirt, souvenir photo, and a view behind the scenes at The Florida Aquarium. The following dive equipment is provided: tank, buoyancy device, regulator, wetsuit, booties, fins and masks. Personal masks are permitted, but disinfection is required. The cost is \$150 plus tax for non-members and \$135 for Annual Pass members.

When is this program available? How do I make a reservation?

Currently, Dive with the Sharks is offered daily at 9:00am. We encourage guests to pre-register as there are a limited number of spaces per program. You can make a reservation by [clicking here](#) or calling (813) 273-4015.

What is your rescheduling policy?

Divers can reschedule their reservation up to six months from their booking date, but date changes less than 30 days prior to the reservation are subject to a \$25 charge. All reservation changes are subject to program availability. Changes must be made through our Reservation Office at (813) 273-4015. No-shows will not be refunded or rescheduled. Like all diving environments, the schedule is subject to change based on the health of the animals, weather and your safety.

How do I get to the Aquarium and where do I go when I arrive?

The Florida Aquarium is located downtown on Channelside drive, next to Channelside Bay Plaza. [Click here](#) for directions. The program meets inside the Business Entrance.

What should I bring with me?

All you will need to bring is your swimsuit, towel, a SCUBA certification card, and photo identification. The Florida Aquarium will supply all other equipment. Personal masks and waterproof cameras are permitted, but disinfection is required; cameras must be hands free and able to be attached to yourself or your gear (Go Pro Style), they cannot be hand held. Due to contamination concerns, you cannot bring your own equipment and wetsuit. Comfortable changing rooms with showers and lockers are provided.

Are guests welcome to watch? Do they have to buy a ticket?

Of course! Your friends and family will be escorted to the Coral Reef gallery where they can watch you in the exhibit. Aquarium admission is required for all guests, but as a Dive with the Sharks diver, you can receive \$2 off Aquarium admission for up to six guests. You may purchase guest tickets for your family and friends from the Guest Services desk upon arrival.

Can you accommodate disabilities?

Yes! Our dive team members are trained Handicapped Scuba Association (HSA) buddies and are able to accommodate a wide range of physical and mental disabilities. Please contact our Reservation Office at (813) 273-4015 with any specific requirements or concerns you may have.

Can you accommodate a group of divers?

Yes! We can accommodate groups of 4-10 divers. All group dives are scheduled at 8:30am and on a limited basis. To register a group dive, please contact our Group Reservation Office at (813) 273-4042.