



EXPLORE VIRGINIA AQUARIUM

717 General Booth Blvd
 Virginia Beach, VA 23451
 For troop reservations, call 757-385-FISH
www.virginiaaquarium.com



GUIDELINES: Visit the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center. Complete the number of activities for your grade level according to this grid.

	Discover	Connect	Take Action	Any Activity Under Any Key
Girl Scout Daisy	1	1	1	0
Girl Scout Brownie	1	1	1	1
Girl Scout Junior	1	1	1	2
Girl Scout Cadette	1	1	1	3
Girl Scout Senior	1	1	1	4
Girl Scout Ambassador	1	1	1	5

Discover

- The Virginia Aquarium offers Animal Ambassador programs throughout the day. Attend one program in the Bay & Ocean Pavilion and one program in the Marsh Pavilion. Write a short description of each animal and list three things you learned about each animal.
- Visit the Ray Touch Pool. Ask a volunteer about skates and rays. Draw a Venn diagram or picture of a skate and a ray. Label the parts of each animal that are the same and the parts that are different.
- Take a hike on the Nature Trail or Marsh Loop. Describe the salt marsh using your senses. What do you see, smell, feel, and hear? Later, write a story about a salt marsh and include what you experienced. Share your story with someone.
- Visit the Upland River Exhibit. How many different classes of vertebrate animals can you find (mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians)? List the classes you find and name the animals you find within each class.
- Living fossils are organisms that have remained mostly unchanged through geologic time and whose close ancestors are usually extinct. Both gar and horseshoe crabs are examples of living fossils. Observe both animals. What characteristics have helped them survive throughout time?

Connect

- Attend a live animal feeding (rays, sea turtles, harbor seals, sharks – check with Admissions for a daily schedule). Find out what is being fed to the animals. Discuss the following with a troop leader, family member, and/or fellow Girl Scout: Why do you think we feed this to the animals? Is it similar to their diet in the wild? What characteristics do the animals have that makes it easier for them to eat their food?
- Review the Virginia Aquarium’s Sensible Seafood Program via their webpage at (<https://www.virginiaaquarium.com/conservation/sensible-seafood-program>). Discuss with your troop or family what “sensible seafood” means and how it helps the marine environment.
- At the Chesapeake Bay Touch Pool, ask a volunteer to describe how a horseshoe crab eats. Find out why horseshoe crabs are important to human health.
- Visit the Aquarium Café, snack stand, or Aquarium Store. Make note of items that are “green,” and ask a staff member about the different practices the Aquarium has to ensure it is run in a sustainable manner. Discuss with a troop leader or family member why you think this is important. Make a list of three things you can do at home to be more environmentally friendly.

- The Conservation Station has both reptiles and amphibians. Observe both types of animals and take note of their habitat. What do they have in common? What are their differences?
- Venomous vs poisonous. What species of venomous snakes are on exhibit at the Aquarium? Think about what has to happen for a poisonous plant (like poison ivy) to harm someone. What does something that is venomous have to do to harm someone? Think about the words venomous and poisonous. Do you think they mean the same thing? Discuss these questions with a troop leader or family member.

Take Action

- Create a skit, song, story or dance that talks about an animal you encountered at the Aquarium. Present your skit, song, story or dance to your troop, family, or class.
- Find out how many restaurants near your home participate in the Sensible Seafood Program. Ask someone you know who likes seafood if they know about the Sensible Seafood Program and whether they participate. Tell them about the program and why it is important to the marine environment.
- While at the Virginia Aquarium, take pictures or video of your experience. Create a digital photo album and share it with your troop and/or family to tell them about your trip.
- Develop a project for you and your troop that will help the marine environment. Tell others about your project and enlist their help. Conduct the project and document what you did with pictures or video to share with others.
- Make a [Trash Talking Turtle](#) using the helpful “How To” guide. When your Trash Talking Turtle is complete, show it to others and tell them why you made it.