

## Explore Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center Patch

Guidelines: Visit the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center and complete the number of activities for your grade level according to the grid below.

	DISCOVER	CONNECT	TAKE ACTION	ANY ACTIVITY UNDER ANY KEY	TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES
Girl Scout Daisy	1	1	1	0	3
Girl Scout Brownie	1	1	1	1	4
Girl Scout Junior	1	1	1	2	5
Girl Scout Cadette	1	1	1	3	6
Girl Scout Senior	1	1	1	4	7
Girl Scout Ambassador	1	1	1	5	8

### Discover

- The Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center offers Keeper Talks in the North Building and Animal Ambassador Programs in the South Building. Attend one of these programs. Write a short description of an animal you learned about and list three things you learned about the animal.
- Visit the Ray Touch Pool. While you're there, find out the difference between a ray and a skate. Draw a diagram of ray and a skate and label the parts of each animal that are the same and the parts that are different.
- Take a hike on the Aquarium's nature trail. If possible, attend one of the educator-led Marsh Walks. 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.
- While visiting the Aquarium, make a list of which animals are on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) list (hint: the signs near the exhibits will say if any of the animals in the exhibit are on the list). Note the status of each animal. Choose three animals on your list and find out why they have been assigned their status.
- Find a volunteer wearing a light blue Aquarium polo shirt or stop by the Volunteer Office. Find out what volunteers do and how someone gets involved in volunteering at the Aquarium. Find out what current volunteers like and dislike about volunteering at the Aquarium. Take notes about what you learned and share it with a friend, family member, or fellow Girl Scout.
- Go on a Boat Tour or participate in a Premium Experience such as a Behind-the-Scenes Tour. (Additional costs may apply. Subject to age/height requirements.)

## Connect

- Attend a live animal feeding (birds, rays, sea turtles, harbor seals). Find out what is being fed to the animals. Discuss the following with a friend, leader, family member, or fellow Girl Scout: Why do you think the Aquarium feeds 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?
- Find and read a Sensible Seafood Program brochure. Discuss with your friends, family, or troop what Sensible Seafood is, and how it helps the marine environment.
- Visit the Mermaid Bay Café, Otter Bay Café, or Aquarium Store. Make note of items for sale that are “green” and ask a staff member about the different practices the Aquarium has to ensure it is run in an environmentally sustainable way. Discuss with a friend, family member, or fellow Girl Scout why you think this is important. Are there things you can do in your own life to be more environmentally friendly?
- Walk through the Restless Planet Exhibits in the North Building. What do Komodo dragons, tropical fish, corals, and tomistomas have to do with Virginia? (Hint: Visit Science Shack Zulu for help!)
- Check out the snake exhibits in the North Building and the Animal Superpowers exhibit in the South Building. What species of venomous animals 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?

## Take Action

- Create a skit, song, or dance that talks about an animal you encountered at the Aquarium. Present to your class, family, or troop.
- Find out how many restaurants near where you live participate in the Sensible Seafood Program. Ask someone you know who likes seafood if they know what the Sensible Seafood Program is and if they participate. Tell them about the program and why it is important to the marine environment.
- Create a puppet show that talks about an IUCN listed animal you saw. Include in your show why it is endangered, what is being done to protect it, and how people can help. Present to your class, family, troop, or a group of younger Girl Scouts.
- While at the Virginia Aquarium, take photos and videos of your experience. Create a presentation about your visit and what you learned. Present it to your family, friends, or troop. With your caregiver’s permission, upload the video online to share with others.
- Develop a project, such as a waterway clean-up, for your troop or family that will help the marine environment. Tell others about your project and enlist their help.
- Become a volunteer at the Virginia Aquarium (age restrictions apply) or complete a special volunteer project at the Aquarium with your troop or family. Contact the Aquarium for projects, dates, and availability.