

# FIELD TRIP OPTIONS

AT THE MARINE MAMMAL CENTER



The Marine  
Mammal Center™

Make your curriculum come alive by visiting The Marine Mammal Center! Bring your students here to learn with all their senses.

“If you’re going to learn it – you’d better see it or do it!”

Choose from grade specific tours and interactive classroom programs. Students will go home understanding why Saving a Seal means Saving Ourselves.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Classroom Programs and Tours:

- Support the California State Science Standards at specific grade levels
- Include unique activities, plus hands-on exploration with pelts and skulls
- Highlight our work with seal and sea lion patients
- Can be combined for two hours of instruction for a discount!

Tours are led by our instructors through the public areas of the Center’s state-of-the-art hospital facility. Tours occur outside with only some protection from the weather. Classroom Programs take place indoors and do not include a tour.

Schedule a Tour/Class Combo; a classroom program and tour for the same group on the same day, and receive a discount. We recommend this if bringing two groups.

**Please Note: This is a hospital; the number and species of patients on view varies from season to season. Not all animal patients are in public view.**

### Group Size:

- Programs and/or Tours up to 35, including chaperones
- Research Discovery Day up to 30, including chaperones

### Rates\*/Length:

- Programs and/or Tours are \$130 each and last 1 hour
- Tour/Class Combo (same group on same day) is \$225 and last 2 hours
- Research Discovery Day is \$420 and lasts 3.5 hours

### Days and Times Available:

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and some Saturdays at 10:00 a.m., 11:15 a. m., 12:30 p.m., 1:45 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.
- Thursdays at 9:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 12 p.m., 1:15 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:45 p.m.

\*All rates and travel fees are subject to change without notice. Rev. 1/20/2011

To make a Reservation Request or for more information please go to [MarineMammalCenter.org](http://MarineMammalCenter.org) or call 415.289.7330 or email [edu@tmmc.org](mailto:edu@tmmc.org)

To ensure availability, please make your reservation several months in advance.

The Marine Mammal Center | 2000 Bunker Road | Fort Cronkhite | Sausalito, CA 94965-2619



## KINDERGARTEN & 1ST GRADE

### **Classroom: Comparing Mammals | Land and Sea**

Engaging activities and fascinating specimens help students compare land and marine mammals. Students look for similarities and differences between harbor seals and humans, and explore how both move, eat and keep warm. At touch stations, students compare features of different marine mammals and review ways in which they can help protect ocean habitats.

### **Tour: What Marine Mammals Eat**

From fish milkshakes to whole fish, students explore marine mammal diets on this tour. As they view the fish kitchen, animal pens and other hospital facilities, students consider the importance of a healthy diet and learn what marine mammals eat at our hospital and in the wild. Activities include a special story, feeding demo and examining seal pelts.

## 2ND & 3RD GRADE

### **Classroom: Elephant Seals | Pup to Adult**

Students watch an engaging and interactive PowerPoint presentation about the lifecycle of elephant seals, from when they come ashore for pupping and breeding, to their life in the open ocean. Students participate in a fun activity and try to “beat the odds” as they act out the challenges that weaned pups face in their first year.

### **Tour: Marine Mammal Babies**

Students learn how the Center’s hospital functions and explore the special needs of the Center’s youngest patients. Patient stories, feeding demos and pelts are among the tools used to help students understand how marine mammal babies compare to adults.

## 4TH & 5TH GRADE

### **Classroom: Moving up the Food Chain**

Students explore the ocean food web and review the roles of producers and consumers. They participate in activities that show how toxins introduced into the food system can harm species further up the food chain, and analyze what happens when animals ingest trash. Stories of past patients show students that human actions can both harm and help marine mammals.

### **Tour: Seals, Sea Lions and Sustenance**

Students learn how the Center’s hospital operates; they listen to stories of past patients, examine pelts and discover differences in the behaviors and habitats of Pacific harbor seals and California sea lions. Students explore the roles seals and sea lions play in the local ocean food web and how trash harms these animals.



## 6TH GRADE AND UP

### **Classroom: Adventures in Anatomy**

Humans and marine mammals share many similar anatomical characteristics, yet they have adapted over time to thrive in different environments. Students compare human and marine mammal anatomy while assembling the skeleton of a pygmy sperm whale. Three stations using our unique specimen collection teach students about the anatomy, adaptations and feeding strategies of marine mammals.

### **Classroom: Marine Mammal Exploration**

Students rotate through five stations, working together to explore the adaptations and features of different marine mammals and formulate ways to reduce threats to marine environments. Students compare pelts and skulls, and examine baleen and teeth. They study structures and behaviors that help mammals keep warm in the cold ocean and assess common reasons why seals and sea lions are admitted to The Marine Mammal Center.

### **Tour: Science in Action**

We look at four functions of The Marine Mammal Center: rescue, rehabilitation, release and research. On this tour, students learn about patient assessment and diagnosis and how the hospital operates. Patient case studies highlight the common problems we see in the different animals we treat at the Center.

## HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE

### **Classroom & Tour: Research Discovery Day**

This program gives older students an in-depth look at The Marine Mammal Center's research and veterinary science techniques. Students receive an in-depth tour of our state-of-the-art facility exploring common causes of illness and injury in our patients. Students rotate through five research stations: skull morphology, telemetry, radiology, hematology and parasitology. Students examine skulls and x-rays, and practice using tracking technology to get a better understanding of the work of a marine biologist.



## ALL GRADES

### **Tour: Pinniped Patients**

Pinniped means “flipper footed” and best describes our primary patients: seals and sea lions. Our educator will lead your group around the public areas of the hospital, sharing stories about the rescue and rehabilitation of our patients. Students look into the Fish Kitchen, Chart Room, the Laboratory and animal pens and pools to see our seal and sea lion patients as well as the staff and volunteers at work.

### **Classroom: Marine Mammals of California**

Learn about the most common marine mammals that frequent the California coast. Grades 1st and up enjoy a PowerPoint presentation that highlights recent patients at our hospital, and they take part in an identification game. Pre-K and Kindergarten classes enjoy age appropriate activities to learn about and compare seals, sea lions, sea otters and whales. All grades touch real specimens and participate in an activity that demonstrates marine mammal sizes.

### **Classroom: 3 R's for Marine Mammals**

This classroom program explains the tools and techniques used by the veterinarians and volunteers to care for our patients - from **R**escue and **R**ehabilitation to **R**elease. Video clips of an actual rescue, animal care procedures and releases allow you to experience all aspects of our work, including those you can't see on a tour!