

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. Choose from grade specific tours and interactive classroom programs. Students will go home understanding why we say “Saving a Seal Means Saving Ourselves”.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Classroom Programs and Tours:

- Support the California 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* and Length

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

Days and Times Available

- Monday to Saturday and some Sundays at 10:00 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:45 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

*All rates and travel fees are subject to change without notice. Rev. 9/1/2011

To make a Reservation Request or for more information please go to MarineMammalCenter.org or call 415.289.7330 or email 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 in their ocean habitat. At touch stations, students compare features of different marine mammals and learn 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 participate in an activity to try to “beat the odds” as they act out the challenges that weaned pups face in their first year. The lifecycle of elephant seals, from when they come ashore for pupping and breeding, to their life in the open ocean is presented using an interactive PowerPoint. Seal adaptations to the ocean environment are also highlighted.

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, observations and pelts are among the tools used to help students understand marine mammal adaptations and how 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 & 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: Vet Detective - Marine Mammal Case Studies

This tour gives older students a hands-on approach to learning about our rescue techniques, rehabilitation process and research projects. Using case studies, students learn how to diagnose patients based on lab results and observations. They will discover the common problems and diseases found in our seals and sea lion patients.



ALL GRADES

Classroom: Ocean Ambassadors

Got trash? Our oceans sure do! Students learn how trash travels through watersheds to the ocean, and hear stories about marine mammals we have rescued that were impacted by trash. We'll discuss simple actions to reduce our trash footprint, encouraging students to become *Ocean Ambassadors*. Younger students learn about the characteristics of marine mammals and how difficult it is for them to survive amongst the trash. Older students learn about bioaccumulation, decomposition and the importance of a healthy ocean ecosystem for all life on earth. (For grades 2nd and up)

Classroom: Marine Mammals of California

Students learn about the similarities and differences in appearance and behavior of marine mammals living along the California coast. Sounds and aquatic adaptations are highlighted! Pre-K through first graders compare seals, otters and whales through pictures, touch, music and movement. Older students enjoy a PowerPoint presentation that shows animals in their habitats, and also take part in an ID game. A rope-length activity helps everyone imagine the vast difference in sizes between marine mammals.

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!

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.

HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE

Classroom & Tour: Research Discovery Day

This four hour 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.

