

# WHALE BUS

AT YOUR LOCATION



The Marine  
Mammal Center™

The Whale Bus is a van that travels to your site, transforming your classroom into a marine mammal museum with real specimens such as bones, pelts and baleen. All presentations include hands-on activities and exploration of specimens. Programs teach students about the lives of marine mammals as well as the bigger picture of caring for the ocean. They support the California Science Standards and are adapted to your group's age/grade level.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

We can teach up to four presentations in one day, but only one program topic can be presented each day.

Our Whale Bus will travel up to 65 miles from The Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito. For locations 50 miles or less, a minimum of two presentations is required; locations between 50 and 65 miles from the Center require a minimum of three presentations.

### At your site we will need

- Convenient parking for the Whale Bus
- 3 to 5 tables in the room for specimens
- The same room for all presentations
- Access to the room 1 hour before and after
- 15 minutes between presentations

### Group Size and Program Length

- Up to 30 students for Pre-K/K (45 minutes)
- Up to 35 students for grades 1st and up (1 hour)

### Rates\*

- 2 Presentations \$145 each (\$125 Pre-K/K)
- 3 Presentations \$135 each (\$115 Pre-K/K)
- 4 Presentations \$125 each (\$105 Pre-K/K)

### Travel Fees\*

We charge the government rate of \$0.55 per mile plus bridge tolls, with a \$20 minimum.

**Please Note: The Marine Mammal Center is a wildlife hospital; therefore we do not bring live animals.**

\*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](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



## TOPICS FOR GRADES PRE-K TO 5TH

### **Outrageous Otters**

Fun-loving sea otters are the focus. Students learn about their adaptations and playful antics, and about their cousin, the river otter. Activities and specimens help students understand why sea otters are endangered, how they use tools, the importance of their kelp forest habitat and why they have the thickest fur of any mammal!

### **Playful Pinnipeds**

Explore the unique and often amusing traits of seals, sea lions and walruses. Students examine taxidermied mounts, pelts and tusks, and learn about the natural history and behavior of these animals. Students compare life-sized cut-outs and participate in a sound activity. Patient's stories make this topic come alive as students distinguish local seals from sea lions.

### **Wonderful Whales**

Beautiful, mysterious and magnificent, whales fascinate many of us. Students examine specimens, including baleen, krill and bones to learn about different types of cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises). Participants in 2nd grade and up assemble the skeleton of a pygmy sperm whale; younger grades "dress up" a student as a whale to learn about body parts and adaptations.

## TOPICS FOR GRADES 6TH & UP

### **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.

### **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 the ocean. 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 reasons that seals and sea lions are admitted to our hospital.

## ALL GRADES

### **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)

### **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.

