

Activity Information Acknowledgement

Ocean Discovery Camp

The Ocean Institute camps are American Camp Association accredited and a requirement for this year is a signed Activity Information Acknowledgement form. This information is to make sure parents/guardians are aware of what their child will be doing in camp. By enrolling your child in this camp you are giving them permission to participate in these activities. With your registration information you should find a parent letter and a schedule for the camp your child is attending. These details will help answer some of the questions we are often asked. The Ocean Institute is very safety conscious and works hard to make your child's camp experience the safest possible, but there is always a potential for injury. We hope the information below will help you understand some of the activities at camp so your child will have a fun and unforgettable experience.

Campers participate in a variety of hands-on activities with our instructors that range from arts and crafts, to fish dissections and water chemistry testing. While the Ocean Institute makes every effort to create a safe and fun learning environment, there are some activities that might need explanation:

Outside Activities: Some activities will occur outside. In the summer this usually means in the sun with the risk of sunburn. We do provide shade for some but not all activity areas. The Ocean Institute recommends that sunscreen be applied in the morning before camp and the campers will be asked to reapply sunscreen during the day. Your child will be responsible for applying the sunscreen to themselves and may ask for another camper's help. The Ocean Institute staff or volunteers are not allowed to apply sunscreen by hand.

R/V Sea Explorer Cruise: The *R/V Sea Explorer* is a federally documented vessel which means it does not require the use of passenger life jackets. Approved Coast Guard Certified life jackets are accessible for passengers 50 lbs and up, but are distributed *only* in the case of an emergency. There is a safety rail around the entire vessel and campers are monitored at all times while on the vessel. The vessel is also equipped with heavy scientific gear used to collect samples for camper use during the cruises. These areas are marked and off-limits to the students. Like any vessel during times at sea, the environment of the boat can be slippery and unsteady.

Exploration in the Dana Point Marine Conservation Area: Camp participants will make a trip to the tide pools in the Dana Point Marine Conservation Area. This is a wilderness area with rough terrain, uneven footing and slippery rocks, so slipping and falling are a possibility. Proper footwear with closed-toes, closed-heels with good traction are required. Instructors carry first aid kits and radios. Please be aware tides are not very low in the daytime during the summer; even on trips to the intertidal area does not guarantee seeing tide pool animals.

Maddie James Seaside Learning Center: This learning lab floats and is a dock where students can discover the techniques and technologies used by scientists. Students are supervised at all times and the facility has rescue equipment readily available.

Thursday Field Trip: On Thursday, Ocean Discovery Camp takes part in a field trip to the **Aquarium of the Pacific** in Long Beach. Campers and staff will be transported by chartered bus. The company is licensed and certified. Seat belts are not required but, when present, are used and instructors are positioned throughout the bus to ensure good behavior and safety. The aquarium, lagoon and nature center are open to the public, and we highly encourage campers to wear their camp T-shirt to help with group management. The aquarium is arranged much like a hallway so that there is one entrance and one exit for the exhibits. Instructors lead their students, with a camp aide in front of all groups and the camp administrator bringing up the rear, to ensure participants do not get ahead of the group or are not left behind. During the entire trip campers are never out of visual contact with our trained, CPR and first aid certified instructors.

I have read the description of the program for this camp and agree that my child is physically able and prepared to participate in all camp activities/program.

I, the undersigned parent/ guardian give my permission for _____
to participate in the camp activities.

Parent or Guardian's signature

Date