

@ The Aquarium

Recurring weekly programs and special programs add to the fun and educational opportunities at the NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores. Some require advance registration and additional fees, and programs fill up quickly. For more information or to register for the programs below, call the aquarium at 247-4003. Online registration is easy at ncaquariums.com/pine-knoll-shores.



Summer weekly programs (beginning June 5)

Aquarist Apprentice. Fridays, 1:30-4 p.m. Take a behind-the-scenes tour, help prepare animal meals and participate in some daily care and maintenance tasks. Learn about the animals as you assist aquarists with their caretaking responsibilities. Ages 13 and up, \$25

Aquarium ABCs. Tuesdays, 8:30-9:30 a.m. Live animal encounters for preschoolers. Program includes crafts, story time and exploring the great outdoors. Ages 2-5, \$10

Behind the Scenes: Aquarium at a Glance. Mondays-Saturdays, noon-12:45 p.m. Visit food preparation areas, animal holding areas and labs—and get an overhead view of the Living Shipwreck. Ages 5 and up, \$12

Behind the Scenes: Aquarium Close Encounters. Sundays, 2-3:30 p.m. Visit labs and holding areas in this thorough behind-the-scenes adventure. Participants will feed some of the animals and get an overhead view of the Living Shipwreck. Ages 6 and up, \$25

Behind the Scenes: Feeding Frenzy. Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Visit animal holding areas, labs and food preparation areas and help feed the fish in the Living Shipwreck. Ages 5 and up, \$20

Behind the Scenes: Otter Antics. Mondays, 1-2 p.m. Meet the aquarium's otter keeper and help prepare special enrichment items that Eno, Neuse and Pungo will enjoy playing with during their feeding. Spend time behind the scenes with aquarium staff. Ages 12 and up, \$20

Behind the Scenes: Shark Snack. Tuesdays and Fridays, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Visit food preparation and animal holding areas and get an overhead view of the Living Shipwreck (including an exclusive look at how the sharks are fed). Ages 5 and up, \$20

Fishing Fanatics. Thursdays, 8-11 a.m. Learn to catch the big ones from the surf with hands-on instruction. Equipment, bait and licensing requirements are covered. Ages 10 and up, \$25

Roosevelt Natural Area Paddle Trip. Tuesdays and Saturdays, 9-11 a.m. Explore tidal flats and quiet backwaters in an aquarium-provided canoe or kayak. Ages 8 and up, \$25

Sea Turtle Trek. Thursdays and Sundays, 7-9 p.m. Stroll the nighttime beach and learn about the fascinating life of sea turtles while looking for loggerhead sea turtles nesting in the sand. Ages 5 and up, \$10

Sound Seafood: Catching Crabs and Clams. Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m. Learn to harvest crabs and clams—and the importance of conserving coastal habitats. Ages 8 and up, \$20

Standup Paddleboarding. Mondays and Fridays for ages 12 and up; Wednesdays for ages 6 and up. 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Explore Bogue Sound on a standup paddleboard and learn about the many plants and animals that call the Theodore Roosevelt Natural Area their home. \$50

Kids' Night Out. Wednesdays, 6-10 p.m. Drop your child off at the aquarium for a fun night filled with animal interactions while you enjoy a night out on the town. Snack and pizza dinner are included. Ages 4-13, \$40

2017 special programs

A Bird's Eye View: Free Flight Bird Show. Daily, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Show highlights unique features of various owls, hawks, pelicans, vultures and other species. Free with admission or membership.

June 8: World Oceans Day. Join in this international observance to promote ocean conservation with themed crafts and activities.

June 19-August 14: Summer Camps. Camps for 2nd-8th grades are held 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., and those for K-1st grade are 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Advance online registration is required.

July 9-16: Shark Week. Shark-themed programs, feedings, activities and crafts spotlight the mysterious and misunderstood world of sharks.

July 13: Night of Mystery. Special G-rated mystery theater event specifically for families with children (designed for ages 8 and up). Supervision and activities is available for children ages 4-7 who are too young to enjoy the performance. Limited availability; visit the aquarium website for more information and to register. 5:30-9:30 p.m.

August 4-6: International Owl Awareness Celebration. Presentations, programs and activities focus on various owl species and their special talents. Free with aquarium admission.

September 1-3: International Vulture Awareness Celebration. The aquarium joins in an international vulture awareness celebration to spread the word about the virtues of vultures and the problems these birds face. Close-up encounters, crafts and interactive activities.

September 4: Open Labor Day. The aquarium is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. as usual with regularly scheduled programs and regular admission fees.

September 14: Homeschool Day. Homeschool families receive free aquarium admission and are invited to enjoy a day of educational programs and activities. This program is in addition to the one free admission per year allowed for homeschool families. Please bring homeschool identification.

October 13-15: 27th Annual Surf Fishing Workshop. Expert instruction and hands-on experience are trademarks of this popular seminar. Advance registration and fees are required.

October 25: Preschool Pumpkin Patch. Special Halloween event for preschool children from 9 a.m.-noon, featuring games, stories, crafts, costumed characters and photo opportunities.

October 26 and 27: Trick-or-Treat Under the Sea. Children collect candy from booths among the aquarium exhibits and enjoy other Halloween activities.

November 11: Free Admission Day and Food Drive. The aquarium celebrates Veterans Day with free admission for all. Visitors are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to benefit Martha's Mission Cupboard. In addition, the American Red Cross will conduct a blood drive from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

December (date to be determined): Santa by the Sea. Space is limited at this special ticketed event; online registration will be available.

January 15, 2018: Free Admission Day and Food Drive. The aquarium celebrates Martin Luther King Jr. Day with free admission. Visitors are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to benefit Martha's Mission Cupboard.



The Bird's-Eye View free-flight bird show at the aquarium helps visitors learn about pelicans, owls, vultures and other birds during the program. All the birds in the show have injuries or conditions that prevent their release into the wild.