

FIELD TRIP RULES

Whale Watching Excursions

Please review these guidelines with your students in class before your field trip.

- Every student must submit a signed liability release form in order to attend the field trip.
- **Students should wear comfortable, closed-toed shoes that are good for walking (no sandals).** They should dress in warm layers, and wear sunscreen and a hat.
- **Students should bring water (not juice or soda)** in a reusable water bottle.
- **Students are strongly encouraged to take medicine to prevent motion sickness before coming to school the morning of the trip.** They should discuss this information with parents/guardians using the Whale Watching Info Sheet (found in this User Guide).
- **Students must adhere to boat safety guidelines, which includes absolutely no running, horseplay, or leaning over the side of the boat.** Students are not permitted to climb-on any part of the boat and they should not linger near stairwells.
- **Students are to remain seated for the first hour of the field trip and may not change seats.** Students should be prepared to sit quietly and listen to a narration about the history of San Diego Bay.
- **Students must get permission before going downstairs to use the restroom or moving around the top deck.** Students may not visit the restroom unless accompanied by an adult.
- Students may take photos, provided that cameras do not cause a distraction to other students or a disruption to wildlife. **Students are not permitted to bring any type of electronic game or cell phone.**
- **There will be other guests aboard the boat and students should be respectful and mindful not to crowd other passengers.** They should not yell or speak to strangers.
- **Students will eat lunch at the conclusion of the field trip, around 12:00pm.** They are not permitted to eat or snack before lunch to reduce the likelihood of seasickness.
- **Students should not allow anything to fall onto the boat deck or blow overboard,** as this contributes to pollution in the marine environment. During lunch they need to be mindful of their trash and leave the lunch area clean and tidy.
- **Students must stay with the group and follow directions** provided by Ocean Connectors, Birch Aquarium, and Flagship crew members at all times.
- **Unfortunately there is no guarantee that whales will be seen on every field trip.** Students should understand that this is “the nature of nature” – it can be very unpredictable. Regardless, participants will receive a meaningful educational experience and likely get to see other wildlife like birds, sea lions, and dolphins.