Tips for a Successful Field Trip

Before you arrive:

- Nametags - nametags help Oceaneers interact with your students and allow the program to run more smoothly. Please prepare nametags for your students or have them make their own.
- Be prepared to split your class into three groups for part of the program. Please make sure you have students in groups that they will work well in.
- We ask that your students leave electronics at home or at school. Cell phones, iPods, and other devises can be a distraction and may get lost or accidently dropped into one of our habitats. If students bring a camera, we prefer if they use it during any free-time they may have before or after their program.
- Chaperone expectations - parent chaperones play a vital role in the success of the field trip. Brief them on how you need them to help during the field trip. This could include supervising a group of students, helping students to access components of the experience and enjoying the experience with them.

Arrival:

- Please arrive 10 minutes ahead of your scheduled program time. This allows time to handle payment, get organized and provide students with their full program time. Delays happen—if you are going to be late please phone and notify the Centre. Full program length is not guaranteed for late arrivals.

Parking:

- There is free 2-hour parking in the underground lot that the Centre shares with the Sidney Pier Hotel and Spa. This parking is limited to vehicles less than 6'6" in height; taller vehicles will need to find free parking on the street (1-hour limit) or pay for parking in the lot adjacent to the Centre.
- For bus arrivals, students can be dropped off at the main entrance. Bus parking is located at Tulista Park or the Mary Winspear Centre.

Payment:

- Payment can be made in advance or on the day of your visit.
- Acceptable forms of payment are cash, cheque, debit, VISA, MasterCard, or American Express.
- Please let us know in advance if you will require an invoice.

During your program:

- Students are encouraged to participate in activities and ask questions about what they are seeing.

Other information:

- Groups are welcome to explore the Centre on their own before or after their school program; please notify the Centre if you wish to book self-guided time. Varieties of scavenger hunts are available; please let us know when booking your program if you wish to receive one of these for your students to do during their free time.
- We do not have space in our Centre for groups to sit and have lunch. However, there is a large grassy area outside of the facility that groups can use on nice days.
- Groups are able to leave the Centre—for lunch or free time—and come back later in the day free of charge. All members of the group will need to get their hand stamped for re-entry.

Continuing learning back in the classroom:

- Your program may have a post-visit package of activities for you to use as follow up to the field trip.
- Oceaneers love to receive letters and/or drawings of your students' experiences. The Centre uses these to help evaluate the success of programs.
- At the very least provide your students some time in class to de-brief about their program—what did they enjoy the most, what surprised them, what they wish to learn more about, etc.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Group Bookings at 250.665.7511 or groups@oceandiscovery.ca.