

The Florida Aquarium Guest Swim and Dive Experience FAQs

What swim and dive programs does The Florida Aquarium offer?

The Florida Aquarium hosts three guest swim and dive programs

1. Dive with the Sharks (SCUBA certification is required)
2. Heart of the Sea Swim
3. Shark Swim

Do I need to register in advance?

Advance registration is required for Dive with the Sharks.

Advance registration is strongly recommended for the Shark Swim and Heart of the Sea Swim as space is limited. Walk up registration is possible, but only if space remains available.

What are the minimum age requirements?

- Dive with the Sharks: Ages 15 and up (SCUBA certification is required).
- Heart of the Sea Swim: Ages 6 and up. Children ages 6-8 years old must be accompanied by a registered adult participant (18 years +).
- Shark Swim: Ages 9 and up.

All participants are required complete a waiver, either as part of online registration, or printed, and presented in person upon check-in. Guests under the age of 18 must have their waiver completed by a parent or legal guardian. For guests that did not complete a waiver as part of an online registration, a copy of the waiver is attached to the confirmation email.

How long are swims and dives?

Heart of the Sea Swim participants will be in the water for 20 minutes. Shark Swim and Dive with the Sharks participants will be in the water for 30 minutes. Swim and dive experiences, including time to change, last approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes.

When do the swim and dives run?

Availability varies. Please visit the program page on our website and click the "Register Now" button for specific availability.

Do I need to be SCUBA certified?

SCUBA certification is required for Dive with the Sharks.

Swim with the Fishes and the Shark Swim do not require SCUBA certification.

Do I need to be a good swimmer?

Participants do not necessarily need to be strong swimmers; however, they should be comfortable in the water.

You will be asked to rate your comfort level with swimming as part of your registration.

Heart of the Sea Swim and Shark Swim participants will be equipped with a vest that keeps the individual afloat throughout the program.

What do I need to bring?

Dive with the Sharks, Heart of the Sea Swim, and Shark Swim participants require a swim suit and towel. All necessary equipment, including a wetsuit, will be provided.

Dive with the Sharks participants will also be required to present their dive certification card, photo ID, and may opt to bring a personal mask. For the health and safety of the animals and habitat, no additional personal equipment is permitted

Guests will have access to showers and change rooms with lockers to store belongings.

Where do I go when I arrive?

Dive with the Sharks registrants will meet in the Aquarium's business entrance lobby at 9:00 AM. The business entrance is located at the front of the Aquarium behind the manta ray statue.

Shark Swim and Heart of the Sea Swim participants will check in at the Guest Services desk upon arrival. Participants arriving early to enjoy the aquarium will be asked to return to Guest Services at their registered swim time.

Is admission included?

Aquarium admission is included for all swim and dive participants.

What if there are members of my party not participating in the swim or dive?

Anyone entering the Aquarium to watch a swim or dive program will require a general admission ticket. Tickets can be purchased on site, or online in advance.

All members of your party should accompany the swim/dive program participant(s) to check-in.

Please note: Children cannot be left unsupervised in the aquarium.

What is the temperature of the water?

The water is between 72-76 degrees Fahrenheit. All swim and dive program participants will be provided with a wetsuit.

How deep is the water?

Heart of the Sea Swim: Approximately 15 ft.

Dive with the Sharks and Shark Swim: Approximately 22 ft.

Can I bring a camera?

All guests will receive footage of their swim or dive taken by an Aquarium divemaster on a USB stick. Guests are welcome to bring a personal small action camera to take photos and videos, however it must remain tethered to the body (wrist strap, head mount etc.). Flash and strobe lights are prohibited.

Are there any size or weight restrictions?

The Aquarium has wetsuits of all sizes for children and adults.

Guests over 6'6", or 400 lbs., please contact the aquarium at education@flaquarium.org or 813-273-4015 for accommodations.

What is the cancellation and refund policy?

To receive a full refund, less a \$5 cancellation fee per registrant, cancellations must be made 3 days before the date of your program. All cancellations must be requested by email.

Cancellations made 2 days or less before the start date of the program will not be refunded.

No shows will not be refunded or rescheduled.

Requests to reschedule may be accommodated. Requests must be made at least 24 hours before your program, and are subject to availability.

All programs are subject to cancellation due to severe weather conditions, or other safety concerns. If the aquarium cancels a program due to weather, participants may opt to reschedule, or receive a full refund.