

Let's Visit the NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island!



Mission: To inspire appreciation and conservation of North Carolina Aquatic environments



Created by the Education Department of NCARI

The North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island is a place where people can go to see animals.

Some of these animals live on land in the wetlands around us. Some of them live in the ocean.

Sometimes the animals are awake.



Other times they are asleep and don't move very much.



There are important rules at the Aquarium. These rules keep the animals and the people safe.



No Pets.

Service animals allowed.



No Touching the Animals.

Except at the Touch Pools.



No Running



Stay with an Adult

When I visit the Aquarium, I will use this entrance.



Visitor Services can help me if I need something. Visitor Services is where announcements are made. Sometimes these announcements can be loud.



This symbol indicates an area that is loud when crowded or an object that makes noise.

The restrooms are found in areas with this sign if I need them.



There are many people who work at the Aquarium.
Most of the staff who work at the Aquarium wear blue shirts.

Some people take care of the animals. We call them Aquarist.



Our Educators do programs. They teach people about the animals.

They may hold animals or things that I can touch.

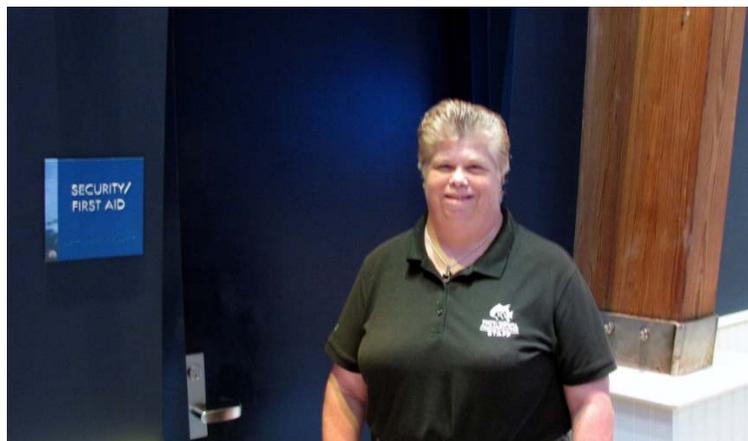


Volunteers help throughout the building. They talk to people teaching them about the animals.

They wear blue vests.



Our security guards wear black shirts so that they stand out.



If I get lost or hurt, I can ask any of these people for help.

As I go inside I will be greeted by a fake shark. I can take pictures with this shark. The shark at the entrance may look scary but I will be brave passing it, knowing it can't hurt me because it's not real. And while I can be brave and touch it, I will not climb on it to ride.



Once inside, I will enter the lobby. There is a fun screen where I can see yourself.

On the screen I will see images of a dolphin, a turtle, a shark, and an alligator. I can have fun and interact with these images since they are not real and cannot hurt me.



Sometimes the Aquarium is crowded and noisy. There can be lots of other visitors and school children. If it is crowded I may have to wait my turn. Other days the Aquarium is not crowded.

Heading to the right I will enter the 7 Rivers Gallery. I will see snakes, turtles, fish and frogs.

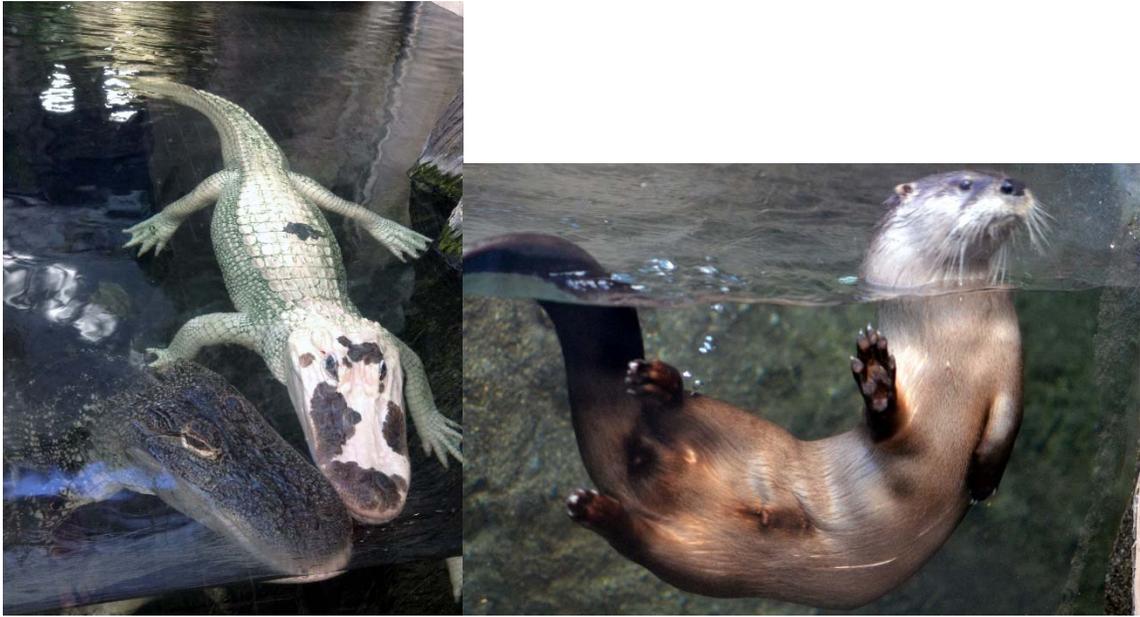


I will also see a character named Willie.



Willie tells stories about the animals and history of the area.

In the Wetlands, I will see river otters, turtles, and adult alligators.



I will stay on the path, so I can see all the animals. I will not tap on the glass as it scares the otters.

I will not touch the turtles, so we can both stay safe.

When I leave the wetlands, I will follow the turtles on the carpet.



They will lead me to the sea turtles.

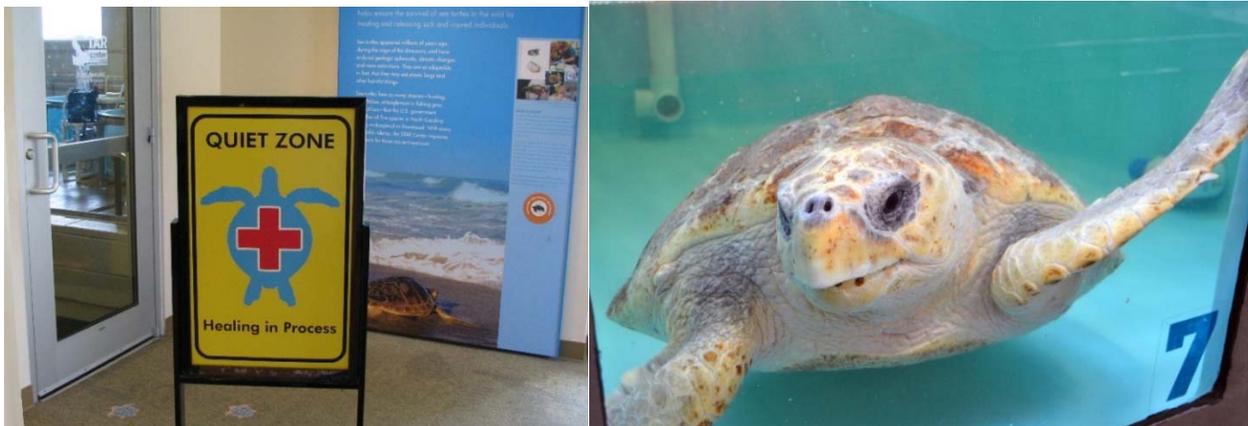
On the way I will meet the people who take pictures.



They will ask if I want my picture taken. I can tell them yes or no.

In the STAR center, I will see sick sea turtles.

I will need to be very quiet here, so I don't make the turtles nervous.



The volunteers here will tell me all about the turtles. They love to answer questions.



After seeing the real turtles, I will go to Operation Sea Turtle where I can be a turtle doctor. Here I can take a fake turtle and treat it until it gets better. Then I will return it to its home.



At the pirate ship, I will enter a long hallway with exhibits on the right. This hallway can be dark and crowded.



When I first enter, a story will be told by Captain Juan Bonilla. He will tell me about his shipwreck and why the ship wrecked.



I will see seahorses, lionfish, and more.



When I exit the hallway, I will enter our Sea Senses Gallery. This is where I can touch the animals.



I will touch the animals gently with two fingers. I will not pick the animals up or move them.



Once I am done touching, I will use the paper towels and sanitizer to clean my hands. Then I will go to the Jellyfish gallery.



While I am at the Jellyfish Gallery, I will see two curtains. These curtains will guide me to the next exhibit.