



BIRCH AQUARIUM

TRANSFORMING UNDERSTANDING

Sharing world-class research

Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography is a vital portal to marine education, serving as the public-facing component of Scripps Oceanography for decades. Now, with a revitalization of Birch Aquarium on the horizon, we aim to connect understanding our ocean planet to protecting it.

As we face unprecedented environmental changes, realizing critical climate goals is essential. Successfully meeting those goals depends on public commitment to dramatic reform, a pledge that can be difficult to uphold when the consequences of climate change still seem largely abstract. The plucked-from-real-life atmospheric, earth and marine science exhibits housed within Birch Aquarium serve as tangible reminders of the environmental crisis playing out and galvanizing our visitors into action.

Welcoming students

To better connect the public to the planet, Birch Aquarium also offers dynamic K-12 education programs, including tours of our facility, instruction featuring aquarium animals, traveling exhibits and summer camps on our beautiful La Jolla coast. These innovative programs enhance students' formal education by reinforcing concepts that cut across both STEM and the arts and humanities, expanding children's minds and forming a new generation of planetary stewards.

Protecting our ocean planet

We invite members of our community passionate about the future of our planet to join us in revealing the oceans' wonders to all of Birch Aquarium's visitors. As Scripps Oceanography expands its research initiatives, Birch Aquarium will serve as a conduit for converting new insights into inspiration for change, led by learners of all ages.

TOP 15 AQUARIUM

Birch Aquarium was named among the best in the nation (*U.S. News & World Report, 2023*)

MORE THAN 500,000 VISITORS

Explore Birch Aquarium each year

54,000 PRE-K-12 STUDENTS

Experience marine science annually through a combination of aquarium visits and outreach

2 MILLION LEARNERS

Reached through online programming including UCSD-TV

At UC San Diego, we believe that what we don't know today will forever change our tomorrows. Empowered by generosity and fueled by curiosity, we are unafraid to chase the unknown — to ask the questions no one has asked before and to push the boundaries of possibility. Together, we unite diverse people and unconventional perspectives to propel limitless impact. Because we know that when we come together, nothing is beyond us.



Together with your philanthropic support, we can successfully share Scripps Oceanography's vibrant research with the community, influencing generations of our planet's future stewards.

[Learn more at \[aquarium.ucsd.edu/giving\]\(https://aquarium.ucsd.edu/giving\).](https://aquarium.ucsd.edu/giving)

BIRCH AQUARIUM PRIORITIES

STUDENT SUPPORT AND SUCCESS

- » Birch Aquarium's extensive **Beach Science** program brings hands-on science education to students in San Diego's underserved communities through our expanding on-site resources and creative mobile options, helping to ensure equity in access to science education.

OUR CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY

Birch Aquarium is embarking on a **physical and thematic renovation** to lead the field in translating scientific research into immersive and accessible experiences designed to inspire action on behalf of our planet.

- » Through **WOW! Experiences** – one-of-a-kind live animal interactions and other memorable exhibits – and **The Black Box Climate Science Theater**, our guests engage in critical thinking and apply Scripps Oceanography research relevant to everyday life.
- » Through careful collaboration with area experts, our **refreshed narrative pathway** will connect visitors to the environment. New design will offer spaces for interaction, while providing a comfortable environment for our guests.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

- » Through Birch Aquarium's **Coral Propagation Program**, our talented aquarists grow coral colonies in captivity for aquarium displays around the world including our own Indo-Pacific reef habitat, reducing collection pressure on natural reefs.
- » Our renowned seahorse and seadragon collection is one of the largest in the world. Through our **Seadragon Breeding Program**, we have raised and shared hundreds of these creatures with other aquariums, lessening the collection toll on wild populations.



BIRCH
AQUARIUM

UC San Diego
SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY