

Georgia Sea Turtle Center School Field Trip FAQs

(October 2023-May 2024):

1. What is the Georgia Sea Turtle Center school field trip?

The Georgia Sea Turtle Center school field trip includes an educator-led classroom presentation with a presentation in our rehabilitation pavilion where we house our current patients.

2. How long is the school field trip?

The school field trip lasts approximately 1 hour, following a 15-minute check-in and introduction. If you book the 8:45 AM reservation, you will be expected to arrive at that time to complete a mandatory check-in and introduction that will last approximately 15 minutes. After that, the educator/s will lead your group/s inside to the classroom or the rehabilitation pavilion. There is the option to add on an additional 30 minutes of general admission time which would allow access to the Learning Center at the conclusion of the 1 hour. Gift shop time is not factored in, and you should plan accordingly if you would like gift shop time at the conclusion of your school field trip.

3. What is the additional general admission time?

The Georgia Sea Turtle Center school field trip guarantees participants a classroom presentation based on the current standards for the state of Georgia, as well as access to our rehabilitation pavilion where we conduct a presentation speaking about our current hospital patients. This will last approximately 1 hour, and the price is \$14/participant.

If you wish to purchase general admission, you may select that option on your request form. The cost for general admission when booking a school field trip will be an additional \$5/participant (\$19/participant) and will provide guests the opportunity to reenter the facility at the conclusion of the school field trip to explore our Learning Center where we house our educational exhibits and treatment room window.

4. How many participants can a school field trip accommodate?

The school field trip can accommodate no less than 10 total participants and no more than 50 total participants. If your group has more than 50 participants, you will need to book a second reservation. Groups larger than 25 participants will be divided into two smaller groups, each assigned to an educator.

5. How many adult chaperones are permitted to accompany a school field trip?

We can only accommodate a maximum of five (5) adult chaperones, including all teachers, administrators, and/or parent chaperones, on each school field trip. We apologize for any inconvenience, but this will allow our staff the ability to provide a higher quality educational experience focused on our students.

Adult chaperones are not permitted to pay general admission upon arrival and join the school field trip. The booking party/school will be asked to name the five adult chaperones no later than 72 hours in advance of the reservation, to better allow us to identify our chaperones upon arrival. Non-adherence to this policy will affect the reservation. If you are interested in bringing more than five adults to the center, I encourage you to book the GSTC guided tour instead of the GSTC school field trip.

6. What if my group is running late?

Due to the other commitments of our education staff, we cannot accommodate late arrivals. The GSTC reserves the right to cancel any late groups without refund. Please plan accordingly to ensure your programmatic experience is not affected.

7. Are teachers free?

Yes! The school field trip can accommodate a maximum of five adults, and these five adults are free of charge. Tour operator leads are included in the maximum of five adults if they will be participating in any portion of the school field trip.

8. How do I request a school field trip at the Georgia Sea Turtle Center?

Please email gstcreservations@jekyllisland.com for more information on how to request a school field trip. A completed request form and signed agreement is required to request a tour. A request is not confirmation of a tour. Upon submission of the request form and signed agreement, our Reservations team will review your request and reply with a confirmation and a quote for services within 3 business days. Incomplete requests will not be considered. Failure to adhere to any parts of the agreement will result in a cancellation of the tour.

9. How do I pay the deposit?

The deposit can be paid via a credit card over the phone, or we can accept a check made payable to the Georgia Sea Turtle Center, Attn: Reservations. Please mail checks to 214 Stable Road, Jekyll Island, GA 31527. If you would like to pay by credit card, please email gstcreservations@jekyllisland.com to schedule a time to pay by phone.

10. Unfortunately, I am unable to meet the parameters of the school field trip, but I would like to bring my group to visit. Is that a possibility?

Yes! If you are unable to book a school field trip, we welcome you to visit under general admission. General admission is a self-guided exploration through our Learning Center and rehabilitation pavilion. We have a treatment room window where you can watch our Rehab team hard at work. We have a viewing platform in our rehabilitation pavilion where you can view our current sea turtle patients. Feel free to engage with our volunteers and staff during your visit and check out the additional educational resources on our Scute's School page on the website. To purchase your tickets, please visit our website at jekyllisland.com/gstc.

11. When can I book a school field trip at the GSTC?

School field trips are offered from October through May. We will start taking reservations for the school field trip in mid-September and conclude reservation requests in early May. Availability is subject to staffing, and are available on a first come, first served basis. We cannot take school field trip requests before reservations open, nor can we take requests past May 2024. Procedures and policies are subject to change in the period when reservations are closed.

12. The GSTC classroom may undergo renovations. How will this affect my school field trip reservation?

Should the GSTC classroom undergo renovations, the GSTC reservations team will notify all current reservations as soon as possible with available options. Unfortunately, the GSTC has not been given a timeline of when these renovations will begin so we will not close reservations. The GSTC education team will do everything in our power to still provide an engaging, educational visit, and we will communicate as soon as possible should this affect your reservation.

13. How many sea turtles will I see? Can I touch and feed the turtles?

The Georgia Sea Turtle Center is a working hospital for a variety of reptilian species, with our flagship species being the sea turtle. We cannot guarantee how many patients will be in our care at any given time. Once our patients have been fully rehabbed, we will quickly release them back into the wild. We are a "hands-off" facility, so that we do not cause any additional stress.

Please email gstcreervations@jekyllisland.com with any additional questions. Your support of the GSTC guided tour allows us to continue our mission of rehabilitation, research, and education!