



## Adult Leader Guidelines

Please share a copy of these guidelines with all adults attending the program. Only point of contact is required to submit an electronic signature.

**Prepare for Your Visit:** Please review the information below thoroughly before electronically signing to confirm your reservation. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at (956) 761-2644 or email us at [coastal@utrgv.edu](mailto:coastal@utrgv.edu).

**Directions to the SPI Lab:** From Port Isabel: Continue east on TX-100/Queen Isabella Blvd toward South Padre Island. Continue on TX-100 E across Queen Isabella Causeway. Turn right at Padre Blvd/State Park Rd 100. Enter Isla Blanca Park through the entrance kiosk. Take the first left onto Channelview Loop. Take an immediate right onto Padre Blvd. Turn left on Gulf Side Loop (first street after Greenland Sea, before Dodson St). Coastal Studies Lab will be on your right.

Address for UTRGV Coastal Studies Lab:  
33363 Marine Lab Drive  
South Padre Island, Texas 78597

**Parking:** Please come prepared to pay the parking entrance fee upon arrival. The fee is \$30 per bus and \$12 per private vehicle, payable to Cameron County Park System. This is separate from your tour fee.

- Cash payments can be made at the kiosk entrance.
- School checks or credit cards must be processed in person at the park office.
- Purchase orders (P.O.s) are not accepted for entrance fee.

Buses and private vehicles may drop off students in the employee reserved parking area but must then park in the lot at the end of the Gulf Side Loop. Please DO NOT park in the Coastal Studies Lab parking lot, as it is reserved for employees only. **If you have any questions regarding the parking fee or park policies, please contact the Cameron County Park Office at (956) 761-5493.**

**Arrival:** Please plan to arrive approximately 15 minutes early. Upon arrival at the Coastal Studies lab, keep students outside the building where a staff member will greet your group and begin the program. The group leader should check-in at the Coastal Studies Lab office with our administrator to pay the balance of the program fee.

**Programs Begin and End on Time:** Please allow ample time for travel and parking. If your group arrives late, the program may be shortened accordingly. If you anticipate a delay, contact us as soon as possible at (956) 761-2644.

**Bad Weather:** Programs are held rain or shine. Please come prepared with appropriate rain gear, as some activities may take place outdoors. In the event of severe weather, your group will be accommodated with indoor activities.

**Student Behavior:** All adults—teachers, parents, or chaperones are expected to stay with the students for the duration of the program. Because students often become very excited during beach activity, our marine science educators rely on adult leaders to help manage any disruptive behavior, allowing staff to focus on delivering a meaningful educational experience. Please ensure this information is communicated to **all** the accompanying adults. Additionally, all participants are expected to respect local wildlife and habitats including refraining from chasing birds, mishandling touch tank organisms, or walking on dune vegetation.

**First Aid:** Adult leaders are responsible for providing First Aid if needed. First Aid supplies are available in the designated cabinets at the lab. Please note that our educators are also trained in First Aid and can assist if necessary.

**How to Dress:** Participants should dress comfortably as activities will take place in the lab or outdoors. Recommended attire includes hats, sunscreen, pants or shorts, t-shirts, and closed-toe shoes. During cooler or rainy weather, please bring a jacket.

### If you signed up for:

**Dissections-** Pants or shorts and closed-toed shoes are required for all students and adults during dissections.

**Beach Ecology Walk-** If your group is participating in a Beach Ecology Walk, please be aware that feet will get sandy. Since the activity takes place outdoors all students should bring water and wear appropriate attire including sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses, and a small backpack for personal belongings. Please plan accordingly.

**Fish Printing (Gyotaku)-** Participants should bring a plain, light-colored t-shirt for printing. If a T-shirt is not available rice paper will be provided for traditional fish-printing experience. Please note that the inks used may stain clothing.

### Places to Eat:

**Pavilions-** Isla Blanca Park features two pavilions, one located next to the Coastal Studies Lab, and another situated farther south near the jetties. A newly constructed beachside boardwalk connects both pavilions. Each pavilion includes picnic tables and restroom facilities.

**Restaurants** Check out *SoPadre.com* or call the South Padre Island Visitor Center at 956-761-6433.

Blackbeard's 103 E. Saturn Lane South Padre Island, Texas (956) 761-2962	Dirty Al's at Pelican Station 201 S. Garcia Street Port Isabel, Texas (956) 943-3344	Pirate's Landing 110 N Garcia Street Port Isabel, Texas (956) 943-3663
Gabriella's 700 Padre Boulevard Suite C South Padre Island, Texas (956) 761-6111	Pizza Hut 1905 Padre Boulevard South Padre Island, Texas (956) 761-1361	Whataburger 3509 Padre Boulevard South Padre Island, Texas (956) 761-7862
D'Pizza Joint 2413 Padre Boulevard South Padre Island, Texas (956) 761-7995	Subway 2100 Padre Boulevard South Padre Island, Texas (956) 761-6700	Wing Stop 3900 Padre Boulevard South Padre Island, Texas (956) 761-1300

Daddy's Seafood & Cajun Kitchen 1808 Padre Boulevard South Padre Island, Texas (956) 761-1975	Lobo Del Mar Café 204 W. Palm Street South Padre Island (956) 772-7256	Yummies Bistro 700 Padre Boulevard South Padre Island, Texas (956) 761-2526
Dairy Queen 2401 Padre Boulevard South Padre Island, Texas (956) 761-1072	McDonald's 908 Padre Boulevard South Padre Island, Texas (956) 761-4999	
Denny's 1100 Padre Boulevard South Padre Island, Texas (956) 761-1887	Tom & Jerry's 3212 Padre Boulevard South Padre Island, Texas (956) 761-8999	

