



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 3, 2012

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UPDATED: Please note updated dates for Community Discount/Free General Admission Days in January.

WINTER 'SHEDD'ULE OF EVENTS

CHICAGO – Escape the blustery winter winds and step into the warmth and excitement of [Shedd Aquarium](#)! Dive into the tropical climate of the [Caribbean Reef](#) exhibit, go nose-to-nose with one of our smiling gentle giants during a [Beluga Encounter](#), or embrace the cool chill of the season during a visit to the hands-on [Polar Play Zone](#). Don't miss [Jellies](#), either – these “must-sea,” pulsing beauties live without bones, brains or blood!

COMMUNITY DISCOUNT/FREE GENERAL ADMISSION DAYS

After the upcoming holiday season, start 2012 with plans to celebrate national holidays, including Martin Luther King Day and President's Day! In January, take advantage of a week of Community Discount Days from **Wednesday, Jan. 25 through Saturday, Jan. 28**, sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund, the philanthropic arm of the Ford Motor Company. Receive **FREE** general admission to the original galleries and discounts on admission passes, including entry to Shedd's Abbott Oceanarium.

In February, save some George Washingtons on President's Day with four straight days of Community Discount/Free General Admission Days from Sunday, Feb. 19 through Thursday, Feb. 23.

Additionally, every Monday and Tuesday throughout January and February are Community Discount/Free General Admission Days.

Community Discount/Free General Admission Week: Jan. 25 through Jan. 28 and Feb. 19 through Feb. 23
Community Discount/Free General Admission Days: Every Monday and Tuesday in January and February

General admission to the original galleries only: **FREE**
Shedd Pass with discount: \$18.95 for adults; \$11.95 children (ages 3-11)

RIGHT BITE FOR SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD

Looking for a new year's resolution? Begin 2012 by choosing [ocean-friendly seafood](#). Every month, Shedd shares a sustainable seafood dish, and January's is stone crab. As part of our *Right Bite* sustainable seafood program, each month the aquarium honors a sustainably caught or farmed fish and educates guests and fans about the select fish. Stone crab can be found on Shedd's best choice [list for sustainable seafood](#). Not only do we have a delicious recipe for *stone crab and kale breakfast bowls*; there is also great news on why it's an environmentally responsible choice! Shedd will provide recipes, information and a cooking demonstration video for each Fish of the Month in 2012.

Show your support by making a fish face! That's right; Shedd's *Right Bite* team is working with several other sustainable seafood organizations on a fun way to get the word out about environmentally friendly seafood! Starting on Jan. 16, support our effort and the efforts of others by visiting the Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BeHappyFish. Here you can take the seafood pledge & upload your "fish face" picture to show support for sustainable seafood!

LEARNING WITH SHEDD

Shedd Stewards

Join other pre-teens and teens in the Chicago area to explore local ecosystems while earning service learning hours. Spend a Saturday outside monitoring, maintaining and improving habitats so you, your community and our native animals all have green spaces to enjoy.

Dates: Monday, Feb. 13; Monday, March 5; Saturday, April 28; Saturday, June 2; Saturday, Aug. 11

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Meets at Shedd Aquarium

Fee: FREE

Program includes: light snacks and transportation to and from the field site.

Service hours: Seven service learning hours for the day (only applicable for high school students).

To register, complete our [online reservation form](#).

Club Shedd

Did you ever want to be a dolphin trainer? Did you ever wonder how an octopus spends its day? Who provides care for the more than 30,000 animals who call Shedd home? Come learn more about these and other exciting careers during our Winter Club Shedd! This winter teens can enjoy four evenings at Shedd, plus a weekend field experience designed to extend their connections to the local environment. Participants should bring their questions, ideas, and enthusiasm as we explore the unique jobs that make Shedd a special place to be for animals and people alike!

Join us on the following Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m.: Jan. 11, Jan. 25, Feb. 8, Feb. 22.

Our overnight field experience will be Saturday, Jan. 21 to Sunday, Jan. 22.

Register now for Winter 2012! Learning with Shedd programs require registration via Shedd's website prior to attending the programs.

SPRING BREAK EXTENDED HOURS

Escape to tropical temperatures without leaving Chicago by spending your Spring Break at Shedd! Shedd will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 12 through Saturday, March 19 and Saturday, March 26 through Sunday, April 30.

From Sunday, March 20 through Friday, March 25, the aquarium will be open from 8:30 a.m. until 8 p.m.

SHEDD'S AQUATIC SHOWS

Shedd's multi-species, multimedia aquatic shows continue to make huge waves at the aquarium. Guests can watch the natural behaviors of the animals living in the Abbott Oceanarium and learn about important training techniques along with interesting animal facts. Enjoy it all within Shedd's state-of-the-art marine mammal amphitheater.

Show runs several times a day – Check the [Shedd website](#) for times.

BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOURS

Ever wonder what it takes to make your favorite Shedd exhibits so great, or what the aquarium's trainers do to keep the animals healthy? Shedd's Behind-the-Scenes Tours will answer these questions and more! The 50-minute tour gives guests a unique perspective of the aquarium, through the eyes of the animal care staff. Guests have the rare opportunity to see the animal healthcare center, where preventive care keeps Shedd's residents healthy; go behind the galleries to view the animals from a new angle; see how nutritious meals are prepared for a wide range of tastes and witness the Aquarium at work.

Tours are available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday \$16 per person, plus admission
11 a.m.; 1 p.m.; and 3 p.m.

PENGUIN ENCOUNTERS

Guests now have the opportunity to get close to Shedd's most popular feathered friends: penguins! The aquarium's newest hands-on experience allows guests to touch a penguin's sleek, slick feathers and learn fascinating facts about the birds and their care from one of Shedd's trainers.

The 30-minute sessions are limited to groups of ten or fewer and include a 4x6 photo of the participant and the penguin. Morning and midday encounters are available daily at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Penguin Encounter and Admission Package: \$56.95 for adults; \$49.95 for children
(includes 30-minute encounter, All-Access Pass with express entry, ticket to aquatic show and *Happy Feet* 4-D Experience)

BELUGA ENCOUNTERS

Ever wonder how a beluga whale's skin feels or what a whale's tongue feels like? Or how Shedd's expert trainers care for beluga whales and other marine mammals? Now guests at Shedd Aquarium can put on waders, get in the water with a beluga whale and find out! Awestruck guests will go nose-to-nose with these gentle white giants from the northern oceans of the Pacific Northwest and learn firsthand how Shedd's animal experts care for these animals.

Morning and midday encounters are available.

\$250 per person, plus admission (\$225 for members) on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

4-D SPECIAL FX THEATER

Winter is the perfect time to sit back, relax and enjoy Shedd's 4-D theater located in the Phelps Auditorium, the only 4-D experience in Chicago. Check out *Happy Feet: 4-D Experience*, a 12-minute, 4-dimensional adaptation of the Academy Award®-winning motion picture. In addition, the crowd-pleasing feature *Planet Earth: Pole to Pole* takes guests on an entertaining and educational journey from the North to South Pole. Each of the 4-D features engages all of the senses through effects, such as neck air bursts, water squirts, leg ticklers, seat buzzers and much more.

Dora and Diego 4-D Adventure

Plays at 40 minutes after the hour \$6 at the theater door, \$3 for Shedd members.

Happy Feet: 4-D Experience –

Plays at 20 minutes past the hour \$6 at the theater door, \$3 for Shedd members.

Planet Earth: Pole to Pole –

Plays at the top of every hour \$6 at the theater door

Show is included with the Total Experience and *aquatic show* Passes.

POLAR PLAY ZONE

Touching and exploring is encouraged throughout this hands on exhibit, part of the reimagined Abbott Oceanarium, designed just for two- to seven-year-olds. Kids are invited to dress up and waddle like a penguin, touch a sea star, drive a submarine and more. While they play and explore, kids learn about polar opposites—big and small, fast and slow, shallow and deep, even north and south.

Polar Play Zone is open daily and admission is included with the purchase of a Shedd Pass.

DIVES

Learn more about some of Shedd's favorite reef residents, from the sea turtle Nickel to the 7-foot moray eel to the colorful parrotfish, during a new presentation in Shedd's signature *Caribbean Reef* habitat.

Caribbean Reef Dives Daily: 10:30 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., 3 p.m.

Shedd is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. during the week and 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. on weekends and holidays until Memorial Day. For more information, please call 312-939-2438 or visit www.sheddaquarium.org. For group sales information, please call 312-692-3333. Advance tickets on sale through Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com.

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*Shedd Aquarium is supported by the people of Chicago and the State of Illinois.
Shedd Aquarium is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and the
Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums*

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