

AQUARIUM OVERNIGHT

Coordinated and hosted by Seng Saechao and Tanya Kindrachuk, 4-H Outreach

The Bridger Science Club celebrated the start of winter break by attending an overnight trip at the Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport, Oregon. This was the largest overnight experience yet!

About 40 participants, which included students, family members and high school student mentors, hailed from Joseph Meek (Alliance High School program), Parkose High School, David Douglas and Franklin high schools.

The fun began at the Hatfield Marine Science Center where club members, siblings, parents and mentors designed Remote Operated Vehicles (ROVs) to find neutral buoyancy and competed to pick up as many objects as they could with their designs. After seeing some well-designed ROVs, the group learned about the different kind of whales and put together a real whale skeleton.

The group then headed off to the Oregon Coast Aquarium, where they had a guided personal tour of the aquarium, participated in a scavenger hunt to learn about the animals housed at the aquarium, enjoyed a pizza party, and had sleepover in their Shark (Open Sea), Orford Reef and Halibut Flats tunnels!

The trip gave students and families the experience and opportunity of a lifetime. Not often does anyone get to spend the night at an aquarium and better yet, learn about conservation efforts in marine biology and marine animals.

The trip allowed us to tie in multiple program topics and encouraged our high school students to step into leadership roles. Building relationships with partners and families of our students are key to a very successful program.