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BACK-TO-SCHOOLING SEPTEMBER CELEBRATES TEACHERS

*Greater Cleveland Aquarium's month-long event offers expanded programming,
as well as free admission for classroom educators at all levels*

CLEVELAND, OH [August 18, 2026]—As students and educators dive back into the classroom, Greater Cleveland Aquarium presents **Back-To-Schooling September, September 1 – 30, 10am – 5pm**. The annual celebration of education and educators features fun, school-themed experiences for learners of all ages as well as **free Aquarium admission (and parking!) for educators.** *

"It's an exciting, busy time as educators ramp up for the year," said Matt Debelak, Director of Education and Interpretation. "By extending complimentary admission to educators, we're encouraging them to experience our fresh and saltwater aquatic habitats for themselves **and see firsthand the various STEM learning opportunities the Aquarium can give their students through curriculum-based programs, field trips or both.**"



In addition to sharks and scuba Q&As, narrated habitat feedings and up-close animal encounters, Aquarium guests in September have the chance to:

- Discover which fish, reptiles, amphibians or birds were named "Best Dressed" or "Most Likely to Make a Splash" on a **superlatives scavenger hunt**
- Earn a gold sea star sticker at our Discovery Carts for playing "**Can You Make the Grade?**", an "Are you smarter than a 5th grader"-style trivia game of plant, animal and ecosystem dynamics.

Classroom educators visiting in September are eligible for the chance to win a Back-to-Schooling prize pack that includes a one-year Family-level Greater Cleveland Aquarium membership, valued at \$130, and a \$200 Gift Shop prize pack featuring books, a backpack, a coffee mug and more.

For educators unable to visit in person, the Aquarium's Education department will run a **FREE live, 60-minute virtual program/open house Tuesday, September 15, from 4:30-5:30pm**. Registration is required.

Registration is also required for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's **FREE, daylong professional development workshop for grades 6-12 educators, Saturday, September 26 from 8:30am – 4pm**. Held at the Aquarium, "**Exploring the Deep Ocean with NOAA**" focuses on the importance of ocean exploration and how tools and technologies enable expeditions in some of the most remote places on the planet. Participants receive a \$100 stipend, and breakfast and lunch will be provided.

For additional details about Back-To-Schooling September, visiting the Aquarium and to register for the virtual program or the NOAA workshop, call 216.862.8803 or visit greaterclevelandaquarium.com.

* **FREE admission, FREE parking with validation and a special "sea" star of academia button to all classroom educators throughout September** is a limited time offer that applies solely to the educator and does not cover family, friends or guests. It is not available online. To access free admission during Back-To-Schooling September, pre-K/elementary/middle/high school teachers and college professors must present proof of employment at the Ticket Counter on the day of their visit.

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