



**SUMMER
SPRINGBOARD**
Look Inward. Go Upward.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MARINE BIOLOGY INFOSHEET

**New student admissions for
Summer 2026 are open.**

Middle School Course

This is a one-week program where you'll focus on one course for the entire duration.

Program Highlights

- Study the ocean environment including the various types of marine ecosystems and diverse marine life found within.
- Explore various marine vertebrates and invertebrates and their anatomy through hands-on dissections and field activities.
- Learn about various human and natural factors threatening our oceans and marine life today, as well as current and prospective conservation efforts.
- Meet with various professionals within the field to learn about the various paths and research opportunities you can pursue as a marine biologist.

2026 Dates

UC San Diego (\$2,998)

- Session 1: June 28 - July 3
- Session 2: July 5 - July 10
- Session 3: July 12 - July 17



Academic Program Overview

Roughly 70% of the Earth's surface is covered by our oceans, of which more than 80% remains unmapped, unobserved, and unexplored. There is a vast and diverse amount of marine life and ecosystems found in our oceans - those both discovered and researched, and those still wading in the depths. Summer Springboard's course in Marine Biology will offer students the opportunity to explore these various marine life and ecosystems, and more, through quality instruction and hands-on activities. Students will explore the anatomy of select marine life, learn about the different habitats they live in and the ways their ecosystems interact, study various threats facing our oceans and marine life today, and hear from leading experts in the field.



Excursions

At UCSD, students will visit the Birch Aquarium and go on a whale watching tour. They will also do a visit to Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the Torrey Pines Wetlands.

Instructors

Mohammad Sedarat

Mohammad Sedarat is a marine scientist and Ph.D. candidate in the Jennifer Smith Lab at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego. His perspective is grounded in ecology, shaped by early work on white abalone restoration that set him on the path to habitat conservation and restoration. His doctoral research examines how climate change is reshaping kelp forests in San Diego and across southern California, integrating ecological, physiological, and genetic approaches to evaluate the adaptability of giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) across spatial scales. Mohammad has been teaching undergraduates, high schoolers, and middle schoolers at UC San Diego for over ten years, frequently participates in expert panels, public lectures, and recently won a best student talk award at a research conference.

Tuition Information:

Residential Students:

- **Includes:** all meals, lodging, excursions, Academic Course, and evening activities
- **Excludes:** optional airport pickup and drop off service (available for an additional fee)
- **Price:** \$2,998

Commuter Students:

- **Includes:** lunch, academic course, excursions, programming from 9am to 5pm on Monday-Thursday and 9am to 2:30pm on Friday
- **Excludes:** lodging, breakfast, dinner, and evening activities
- **Price:** \$1,498

Supplements:

- **Application fee:** Starting at \$99 (mandatory, non-refundable)
- **Marine Biology Course Supplement Fee:** \$250 (mandatory)
- **Tuition Protection Plan:** Allows for cancellation for any reason up until the day of the program. Click [here](#) for more info.

Summer Springboard programs are not run by our campus partners (with the exception of Cal Poly, University of Washington Foster School of Business, and NYSID which are run in partnership with SSB). Universities and their affiliated departments and partners do not control and are not responsible or liable in any manner for any part of the Summer Springboard program.



Course Structure

There are five 3-hour class sessions over the one-week course. During the week, students have class from 9am-12pm, Monday - Friday (program check-out is 2:30 p.m. on Friday). Wednesday afternoon will be dedicated to additional academic time with possible excursions and/or guest speakers.

The Middle School programs operate separately from Summer Springboard high school programs with separate staff, accommodations, classes, and a more structured environment. For students completing grades 6-8.



Typical Schedule

8AM	Breakfast	
9AM	Academic Course / Commuter Student Arrival	
12PM	Lunch	
1:30PM	Academic Excursions or Recreational Activity	
3:30PM	Academic Skills Lab	
5PM	Free-Time	
5-6PM	Commuter Students Depart	
6PM	Dinner	
7PM	Evening Activity	
8:30PM	Back in the Dorm	
9:30PM	Mentor Check-In	

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[More info on Unaccompanied Minor Service](#)

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