

Dive into the Gulf

Moody Gardens, Galveston, TX
February 26 to 28, 2027

What is Dive Into The Gulf?

Dive into the Gulf is a three day event that brings communities together from students, families, and businesses to ocean lovers, scientists, and divers. This event builds meaningful interests in our world's waters, the resources they hold, and the benefits they can provide in a sustained way. Most importantly, this event raises funds to support Moody Gardens' Ocean Health and Dive Medicine program. This first of its kind program provides needed resources and health management for the region's diving communities. We will serve as a door to the benefits of undersea and hyperbaric medicine for humanities needs of rehabilitation.

Why Is It Important?

The ocean connects us all. By building community relationships in support of our world's waters, doors open for inspiration and meaningful change to benefit the aquatic realms and the resources they hold for generations to come. These are the efforts we seek here at Moody Gardens, to not only take action that builds a better tomorrow, but inspire it as well. This event is the first chance you will have to see the support and resources to benefit restoration and the scientific community. Moody Gardens provides a window to the aquatic and terrestrial realms for visitors to view the treasures they hold. Our mission's efforts will be at the forefront this year - creating a first of its kind undersea medicine program providing safe access to the waters along our coast. Looking ahead, these efforts take aim to better understand pressure and its ability to aid in the recovery and rehabilitation of the human body.

Vendor Information:

We will have a marketplace hall set up just outside of the main speaking rooms in the Moody Gardens Hotel and Convention Center. There will be 30 booths available in our marketplace; Booth includes outlet (1000 watts, 120 volts, single phase), 6ft table and 2 chairs. Additional space can be purchased upon request.

***Vendors**: Booth rental - $250*

***Exhibitors**: Reserved for Non-profit organizations, public safety, educational organizations and Artists. Booth rental - $100 or Raffle products of $250 retail value in lieu of booth fees permissible.*

Auction/ Raffle:

- There will be raffles, live and silent auctions ongoing during this event.
- Any auction or raffle donations are welcome.

Topics:

We will have one keynote and multiple speakers/panels on Saturday and Sunday. We will also have presentations geared to younger audiences which will include interactive talks and educational opportunities.

Saturday, February, 27th	
Category	**Topic**
Keynote	From the Ocean to the Stars: *Per Aquas Ad Astra*
Breakout Speech	Protecting the Gulf: Daunting Challenges & Innovative Solutions
Breakout Speech	Oyster Farming and Reef Restoration: Texas Style
Panel	Women Beneath the Surface: Breaking Barriers in Diving & Science
Panel	Citizen Science: Getting Involved in Protecting Our Ocean
Future Explorer's Zone	The Ocean: What You Can Do

Topics subject to change

Sunday, February, 28th	
Category	**Topic**
Keynote	Shark Populations in the Gulf: Returning To A Natural Baseline
Panel	Behind the Blue: How Aquariums Are Supporting Ocean Conservation
Panel	Careers Beneath the Surface: Where Adventure Meets Science Finding Your Path
Future Explorer's Zone	All About Sharks: Taking A Bite Out Of Myths

Topics subject to change

Saturday Afternoon Activities	
Guided	• **Behind the Scenes Pyramid Experiences** • **Research Vessel Tours (closed toe shoes)** • **Lionfish Dissection** • **Hyperbaric Chamber Tour** • **Try Scuba** • **SCH-ROV demo**
Self Guided/ Continuous	• **Oyster Bagging/ shucking** • **Reef to Restaurant** • **Fishing lesson/ games: target casting, magnet fishing, knot tying, etc.** • **Scuba in a bucket** • **Dunk tank (MerME, me as a mermaid)** • **Photos with Galveston mermaids** • **Artificial Coral demo station** • **Coral "planting" opportunity** • **Bycatch/ entanglement in ghost fishing gear display** • **Field research methods: Transects, quadrats, percent cover, search patterns, etc.** • **Face painting/ caricatures** **Events subject to change**

AQUARIUM AFTER DARK (7:00-9:00 P.M.)	
• Educational opportunities throughout exhibits • Conversations with experts • Discounted small group tours/ animal experiences • Professional photos in the Ocean View or Coral View room	• Hors d'oeuvres (Lionfish ceviche/ oysters) • Beer/wine/cocktails • Exclusive behind the scenes aquarium experience

MOODY GARDENS
GALVESTON ISLAND

Dive into the Gulf

February 26 to 28, 2027