



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SHEDD AND TARGET® TEAM UP TO OFFER BUS FUND PROGRAM FOR CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Target Contributes \$50,000 to Shedd Program for Field Trip Assistance Serving Underserved Schools

CHICAGO – After a successful pilot program year, [Shedd Aquarium](http://www.sheddaquarium.org) and Target® doubled its commitment to the program by contributing \$50,000 to provide field trip assistance to economically disadvantaged schools in the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) system during the 2011-2012 school year.

Sponsored by Target, the bus fund program at Shedd is open to all CPS school wards and provides up to two buses a year for round-trip transportation to the aquarium where students can explore the wonders of the water world that they learn about in school, including the sharks of Shedd's *Wild Reef*, the warm waters of an Amazon floodplain forest, and the playful natural behaviors of the beluga whales in the Abbott Oceanarium.

“The best lessons are often taught through first-hand experiences and field trips help teachers to bring the pages of science books to life for their students. For example, getting up close to a real sea lion, which they have only seen in photos, can create lasting learning moment for anyone,” said Melissa Williams, Vice President of Learning and Education at Shedd. “We are so thankful to have Target as a partner, an organization that appreciates the value of experiential learning so much so that they have grown the program to help twice as many schools.”

Schools interested to apply for the program can download an [application](http://www.sheddaquarium.org/2904.html#target_bus_fund_program) on the Shedd website at http://www.sheddaquarium.org/2904.html#target_bus_fund_program. Eligibility for the program is limited to schools in which at least 51 percent of the student population qualified for free or reduced-price lunches through the National School Lunch Program. Field trips must occur before June 30, 2012 and schools are responsible for making their own reservations.

Information about Shedd's educational programs and field trip application can be found [here](http://www.sheddaquarium.org). From now till Memorial Day, 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 Labor Day. For more information, please call 312-939-2438 or visit www.sheddaquarium.org.

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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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