



SHARKTOBERFEST FAQ

Oct. 14, 2023 [MOTE.ORG/SHARKTOBERFEST](https://mote.org/sharktoberfest)

Do I need to bring my ticket to the event?

Yes! Please bring a printed or digital copy of your ticket to verify your admission to Sharktoberfest. If you have misplaced your ticket, please email membership@mote.org to request a new copy.

What time should I arrive?

Doors will open at 7:00pm. We suggest arriving a little early to avoid heavy traffic and lines for check in.

Can I show up late?

Yes, check in will remain open throughout the duration of the event.

Do you allow re-entry?

We will not allow re-entry to the event for safety and security purposes.

Will the event be canceled if it rains?

No! Sharktoberfest will take place at Mote Aquarium which consists of indoor aquarium exhibits and covered, outdoor aquarium exhibits. Rain will not affect the event and you should plan to attend, rain or shine.

Where should I park?

Ample parking is available in the Main Aquarium parking lot at 1600 Ken Thompson Parkway Sarasota FL 34236. Additional overflow parking is available at Ken Thompson Park (including the boat ramp and City Island park.) We strongly encourage carpooling or using a rideshare service if you plan to consume alcohol during the event. Do not drink and drive.

What should I wear?

Sharktoberfest attire is casual and comfortable.

What items are prohibited to bring into the Aquarium?

The following items are not permitted on Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium grounds for the safety of our animals and guests: weapons or firearms per Florida Statutes Section 790.06(12) {firearms are not allowed at events with alcohol provisions}, any hazardous items or materials, balloons, plastic straws, food and beverages not provided by approved vendors (water and baby food/formula is allowed), or any other items deemed to be a safety hazard or that may be used to engage in prohibited activities.

What is the smoking policy?

Cigarettes, Cigars and E-Cigarettes are prohibited in all buildings except in designated outdoor areas.

What is included with my ticket purchase?

-General Admission includes access to Mote Aquarium, beer sampling and event entertainment. Additional purchase opportunities: event merchandise, food vendors and cash bar (with limited cocktails, wine and beer available to purchase.)

-VIP Tasting Tickets include access to the 2 hour VIP tasting from 5 to 7pm. VIP Tasting Tickets also include access to Sharktoberfest from 7 to 10pm (access to Mote Aquarium, beer sampling and event entertainment. Additional purchase opportunities: event merchandise, food vendors and cash bar with limited cocktails, wine and beer available to purchase.)

Can I purchase a discounted ticket if I don't plan to sample the beer?

We do not offer a discounted ticket. All guests must purchase a General Admission ticket for access to Sharktoberfest.

Can I attend if I am under 21 or may I buy a ticket for someone under 21?

Sharktoberfest is a 21 and up event and a valid photo ID will be required for entry.

What is there to do at Sharktoberfest?

All exhibits in the Main Aquarium will be open during Sharktoberfest. You can also shop our merchandise vendors, including the Mote Gift Shop. Food vendors will be stationed around the Aquarium with selections for purchase. Entertainment will include live music and hands-on educational activities.

Will there be seating available at Sharktoberfest?

Yes, limited seating will be available on a first come first serve basis. There is no reserved seating for Sharktoberfest. Seating options include benches and small tables.

Is there a schedule of bands and other performances?

Kettle of Fish will be performing from 7 to 10pm in the Aquarium Courtyard.

Can I bring my dog or other pet?

Mote will allow entry to service dogs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. Pets are prohibited.

Are there restrooms?

Yes, Mote Aquarium restrooms will be available for the duration of the event.

Are there hotels nearby?

Yes, please click [here](#) for more details:

Can we bring food and beverage into the festival?

No, only food and beverages provided by approved vendors are allowed into Mote Aquarium during Sharktoberfest (water is allowed)

Is the festival accessible for guests with disabilities?

Several manual wheelchairs are available for free at Mote Aquarium on a first come, first served basis. Mote has been designated an Autism Friendly Business by CARD at University of South Florida, and our Aquarium offers a free, downloadable Sensory Guide to help you prepare for your visit. Also, a limited number of sensory-friendly backpacks are available for check-out (with ID exchange) at the front desk.

Is there an ATM?

No. The closest ATM is located at St. Armands Circle.

How do I stay up to date on Sharktoberfest announcements?

Please RSVP to the Facebook Event Page to be informed of event updates!

I have a question that wasn't answered here, now what?

Please email events@mote.org to submit any additional questions you have.