

The state may shut down but the MOA Aquarium doors are open

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July 1 is the deadline for when legislators and Governor Dayton must decide on a budget solution or face a government shutdown. Just in case that deal can't be reached, SEA LIFE Minnesota at the Mall of America is ready to entertain recently laid off state employees.

If there is still no agreed upon budget by July 1, the more than 35,000 state employees who will find themselves out of work can visit SEA LIFE Minnesota for free through Sunday July 10. In order to redeem the offer, state employees need only bring a copy of their lay off notice, and present it at the Aquarium Box Office on MOA Level One.

The limited-time offer will give suddenly laid off state workers the chance to spend time with their family in a place they may otherwise not visit. The more than 10,000 sea creatures, including sea turtles, sharks and seahorses, will provide their family an interactive and educational afternoon.

"We sincerely hope our legislators can compromise on a budget deal in the next two days," said Craig Atkins, general manager at SEA LIFE Minnesota. "But if it does come to a government shut down, we want to offer our state employees a chance to enjoy the Aquarium and spend some quality time with their families."

Laid off state employees looking to take advantage of this deal don't need to leave their family at home. Family members who accompany their laid off state employee to see the sea creatures will receive 50 percent off admission.

The general public can also visit <http://www.visitsealife.com/Minnesota/> to purchase online tickets for a special rate available now through Monday July 4 of \$10 per person.

SEA LIFE Minnesota is the second U.S.-based SEA LIFE aquarium and is located within the Mall of America near the East entrance. For more information, visit www.sealifeus.com or call 952-883-0202.