

School Programs Volunteer Information • 2011-2012 Seymour Center at Long Marine Lab



Thank you for your interest in joining the outstanding group of people who volunteer as part of the Seymour Center's School Programs teaching crew. Our team of volunteers brings the wonder and importance of marine science to life for thousands of students every year. We hope you'll join us!

What would I be doing as a school programs instructor? Teams of volunteers, interns, and staff work together in a classroom setting to teach hands-on, marine science activity stations as part of thematic *Discovery Labs* to small groups of students (8 children max. per small group). Volunteer instructors also lead interpretive tours for students (up to 20 children/adults) to visit areas of the marine lab (including the marine mammal overlook, blue whale skeleton, invertebrate touch tank, live sharks in aquaria, or elephant seal natural history and research station.) Tour stops and activities depend on grade level of the class attending. Instructors work with all grade levels (K-12 through community college).

Benefits: Meet fun and dedicated people who share your enthusiasm for kids and the ocean. Learn about local marine life and scientific research. Gain experience in public speaking, teaching, and interpreting marine science and research. Develop excellent group management skills for working with K-12 students. Regular enrichment lectures and field trips are offered to active volunteers throughout the year.

Requirements: Responsible, punctual, and reliable. Enjoy working with K-12 and college students. Desire to learn and communicate marine science and research to youth through hands-on activities and engaging interpretation. This position requires preparation at home the night before each teaching shift. Ability to manage a group of schoolchildren. Ability to walk 1/3 mile, lift buckets of seawater for holding live marine animals. Enjoy working cooperatively with a team of other volunteers and staff. Minimum 18 years of age. Attitude of a life-long learner. Experience working with K-12 youth preferred, but not required.

What does the training cover? Training sessions provide orientation to Seymour Center school programs, touring and teaching demos and practice, group management tips, introduction to a variety of marine science concepts, and the most current information on Long Marine Lab marine mammal research.

When and where is the training? The School Programs Volunteer Training series takes place each fall (end of Sept.-mid Oct.) and consists of seven 3-hour sessions. All training sessions take place at the Seymour Center at Long Marine Lab. Different information is covered each day. Reading and homework will be given each day. Ongoing training and support, and additional training sessions (some required) will be provided throughout the school year.

Minimum commitment: *One morning shift each week (Tuesday-Friday, either 8:15-11 AM or 10:15 AM - 1 PM) mid October through early June.* Vacations can be covered by swapping shifts with other school volunteers or by arranging subs. College students are able to switch shifts on a quarterly/semester basis to accommodate class schedules. Intern positions are available that require additional hours and responsibilities.

How do I apply to become a school programs instructor? First, submit an application that can be downloaded from our website: <http://seymourcenter.ucsc.edu/volunteers.html> Applications will be reviewed, and selected candidates will be contacted for an interview beginning in August (for fall training) or as positions become available.

Need more information or have questions?

Contact Lucia MacLean, Volunteer Coordinator, lmaclean@ucsc.edu or (831) 459-3854.