

School Programs Volunteer Information • 2009-2010 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 volunteer? 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). Volunteers also lead interpretive tours for students (up to 20) 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. Volunteers 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. After three months of active service, active volunteers qualify for an individual membership in the Friends of Long Marine Lab, and all rights and privileges thereof.

Requirements: Responsible 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. 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? All training sessions take place at the Seymour Center at Long Marine Lab on **September 23 (6-9 PM), September 26 (9 AM-12:30 PM), September 30 (6-9 PM), October 3 (9 AM-12:30 PM), October 7 (6-9 PM), and October 9 (9 AM-12:30 PM)**. Different information is covered each day, so new volunteers need to attend all training sessions. Reading and homework will be given each day. Ongoing training and support, and additional training sessions 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) October 13, 2009-June 4, 2010. Vacations can be covered by swapping shifts with other school volunteers or by arranging subs. Students are able to switch shifts on a quarterly basis to accommodate class schedules. Intern positions are available that require more hours and additional responsibilities.

How do I apply to become a school volunteer? 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 as soon as possible.

Need more information or have questions?

Contact Suzanne Hebert, Youth Programs Manager, shebert@ucsc.edu or (831) 459-5725.