

Visitor Programs Docent Volunteer Information • 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 Visitor Programs crew. Our team of volunteers brings the excitement and importance of marine science to life for thousands of visitors a year. We hope you'll join us!

What would I do as a Visitor Programs Docent? Teams of volunteers, student employees, and staff work together in our visitor hall to connect the public with the ocean using hands-on, marine science interpretation. Docents are trained to lead a 45-minute tour of the Seymour Center and the Long Marine Lab research facilities.

What are the benefits: Meet fun and dedicated people who share your enthusiasm for the ocean. Learn about local marine life and scientific research. Gain experience in public speaking, and interpreting marine science research and conservation. Regular enrichment opportunities are offered to active volunteers throughout the year. Active volunteers receive personal admission benefits, guest passes, and Ocean Discovery Shop discounts.

What are the requirements? Responsible, punctual, and reliable. Enjoy working with people of all ages and backgrounds. Desire to learn and communicate marine science and research to the public through hands-on activities and engaging interpretation. Comfortable working with live marine animals. Comfortable working with children. Enjoy working cooperatively with a team of other volunteers and staff. Minimum 18 years of age. Attitude of a life-long learner. Previous knowledge of marine science or conservation is not required.

What does the training cover? Training sessions provide orientation to Seymour Center Visitor Programs, basic interpretation and marine science presentation skills, safe handling of live intertidal animals and sharks, introduction to a variety of marine science concepts, and the most current information on Long Marine Lab research.

When and where is the training? All training sessions take place at the Seymour Center at Long Marine Lab beginning on **January 11, 2012 and ending on March 28. Training sessions meet each Wednesday evening, 6-9 PM, and each Saturday 9 AM-4 PM.** Reading and homework will be given each day. Ongoing training and support, as well as additional training sessions will be provided throughout the year.

Minimum commitment: One shift every other week (Tuesday-Sunday) for one year. Vacations can be covered by swapping shifts with other Visitor Programs volunteers or by arranging subs. Volunteers are able to switch regular shift times to accommodate work or class schedules. Intern positions are available that require additional responsibilities. Shift times are Tuesday-Saturday 9:30 AM-1:30 PM (morning shift), and 1:00-5:30 PM (afternoon shift); Sunday 11:30 AM-3:30 PM (morning shift), and 1:00-5:30 PM (afternoon shift).

How do I apply to become a Visitor Programs Docent? 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. **Application deadline is Sunday, December 11, 2011.**

Need more information or have questions?

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