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 and interns brings the wonder and importance of marine science to life for thousands of students every year. We hope you’ll join us!

What is an internship? The Seymour Center’s School Programs Internship is an opportunity to gain experience teaching and interpreting marine science to visiting K-12 and Community College school groups in a classroom setting. Interns may also be asked to take on additional responsibilities for special projects and various clerical tasks essential to program operations.

What would I be doing as a school intern? Teams of volunteers, interns, and staff work together 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) in a classroom setting. Interns 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 and shark touch pools, live sharks in aquaria, or elephant seal natural history and research station.) Tour stops and activities depend on grade level of the class attending. Interns work with all grade levels (K-12 through community college) and are required to help lead tours when teaching Discovery Labs. School interns also lead Reserved School Tours, an alternate program option for classes not participating in Discovery Labs. Read about Discovery Lab and Tours and Reserved School Tours at: http://seymourcenter.ucsc.edu/learn/students-teachers/ways-to-visit/.

How is being an intern different than being a volunteer? Interns are volunteers, but typically work more hours on-site (anywhere from 6-15 hours/week depending on how much credit is being earned). Other school volunteers typically work 3 hours per week. Because interns work more hours, they become more deeply involved in the daily functioning and responsibilities of school programs and special projects at the Seymour Center.

Benefits: 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/interns throughout the year. Active volunteers qualify for an individual membership in the Friends of Long Marine Lab, and all the rights and privileges thereof. Opportunity to volunteer with summer marine science camps for youth.

Requirements: Responsible, punctual, and reliable, with a positive attitude. 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 (ages 18-85), interns, and staff. Minimum 18 years of age. Experience working with K-12 youth preferred, but not required.

How do I become trained as a school intern? Each year we accept a limited number of new volunteers and interns to help teach our programs. We typically interview and select this group at the beginning of the school year when we hold our School Programs Instructor Training series. This is a series of half-day training sessions that take place in late September/early October. New volunteers and interns beginning in the fall season are required to attend these training sessions (see below for 2015 training dates).

As the school year progresses, we sometimes accept new volunteers and interns in December and/or February if additional assistance is needed. To train and prepare volunteers and interns coming onboard mid-school year, we require they watch a series of training videos recorded from the fall training sessions. Online training materials to help you prepare for all programs and tours are provided to all new volunteers and interns as well as coaching and mentoring from staff and veteran volunteers. Most training for interns coming onboard mid-year is “on the job,” therefore these folks need to be self-starters, willing to jump in and learn by doing from the outset.

Need more information or have questions?
Contact Seymour Center Volunteer Services, volunteers@ucsc.edu or (831) 459-3854.
School Programs Intern Information • 2015-2016
Seymour Center at Long Marine Lab

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:

- Wednesday, September 23, 2015, 6-9 PM
- Saturday, September 26, 2015, 9 AM-1PM
- Wednesday, September 30, 2015, 6-9 PM
- Saturday, October 3, 2015, 9AM-1PM
- Wednesday, October 7, 2015, 6-9 PM
- Saturday, September 26, 2015, 9 AM-1PM
- Wednesday, September 30, 2015, 6-9 PM
- Day 6: TBD

Different information is covered each day, so new interns need to attend all training sessions. Reading and homework will be given each day. Ongoing training and support, and additional required training sessions will be provided throughout the school year.

Minimum commitment: Interns are expected to work for a minimum of two quarters, preferably three (i.e. six or more months). Preference will be given to interns who commit to the entire school year. The total number of hours an intern needs to work depends on whether the intern wants to volunteer for credit (see below) or experience. Interns need to be available at least one weekday morning per week (Tuesday-Friday) for teaching. In addition to teaching and preparation time at home, interns are expected to schedule at least two additional hours per week to assist with administrative projects and/or to help lead Reserved School Tours, depending on need. Students are able to switch shifts on a quarterly basis to accommodate class schedules. Vacations can be covered by swapping shifts with other school volunteers or by arranging subs.

Can I receive credit for interning? Interns can either work simply to gain experience and build a resume, or they can also arrange for credit if enrolled in a university or college. Non-credit internships have more flexibility. Interning for credit requires additional written work (see requirements below) because the student will receive an official evaluation and grade from their faculty sponsor for the course.

What are the requirements for credit? Credit for UCSC students is offered through the Environmental Studies (ENVS) Internship Program. Students must arrange a faculty sponsor for the internship. Interns must contact the ENVS Dept. to set up an internship for 2 or 5-units of credit:

- 2-units of ENVS credit: requires 60 hours of internship-related work. Two-unit internships are usually completed in one quarter are require 6 hours/week.
- 5-units of ENVS credit: requires 120 hours of internship-related work. The 120 hours is usually completed over the course of multiple quarters, and credit is given in the final quarter of the internship.

Preference is given to interns who commit to working one or more intern shifts over three consecutive quarters. Commitment to volunteering for at least two consecutive quarters is required. Days and shifts can be adjusted each quarter to work with students’ course schedules.

I am interested in a School Programs Internship. How do I apply? First, submit an application that can be downloaded from our website: http://seymourcenter.ucsc.edu/get-involved/internships/

E-mail/send your application to: Seymour Center School Programs Internships volunteers@ucsc.edu or 100 Shaffer Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Applications will be reviewed, and selected candidates will be contacted for an interview as soon as possible.

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