



Volunteer Position Description

Title: Public Engagement Volunteer

Who we are:

The Charleston Marine Life Center is the public outreach and education facility of the University of Oregon's Oregon Institute of Marine Biology. Here visitors and students explore and learn about the marine life found off the coast of Oregon through living and interpretive exhibits.

Summary of the role:

Our public engagement volunteers actively greet visitors and introduce them to the Charleston Marine Life Center. Additionally, they are responsible for checking visitors in and handling money. The marine life center is full of educational content and these volunteers share this information with guests. This role will have you helping visitors feed kelp to urchins and abalone one moment and explaining what an anemone is the next. Public engagement volunteers are the backbone of our public hours and facilitate much of the learning that happens here. That said, we do not expect volunteers to necessarily come in with a strong knowledge of local marine life. Volunteering here is a great way to learn. We just ask you come with curiosity and an interest in learning.

Tasks and responsibilities:

- Engage with guests and interpret exhibits (50%)
- Greet and sign-in visitors (35%)
- Spend time learning about exhibits (15%)

Required skills:

- Comfort talking with people
- Works well both within a team environment and independently
- An interest in continuing to learn more about the marine life off Oregon

Physical demands*:

- Able to tolerate working around cold water
- Comfortable standing for long periods of time

* If physical demands are prohibitive please talk with us. We want to help you be involved.

Time commitment:

We require our public engagement volunteers to commit to at least two 3-hour shifts a month (one 3-hour shift a week preferred). We take this commitment seriously as our ability to be open to the public depends on you.

Charleston Marine Life Center
P.O. Box 5389
Charleston, OR 97420
Questions: 541-346-7305
cmlc@uoregon.edu



Supervision and environment:

During the beginning of your volunteer experience you will work directly with a supervisor to ensure that you are acclimated to the facility, and confident with your new skills. You will work alongside and shadow other experienced volunteers and ultimately perform your duties independently with little supervision. Over time, exceptional volunteers have the opportunity to develop leadership skills by training new members of our team.

Benefits to the volunteer:

- Be an active member in the community
- Learn more about marine biology
- Professional development while working within a team-oriented environment
- Additional trainings and volunteer events

How to apply:

Please visit our website cmlc.uoregon.edu or contact cmlc@uoregon.edu to apply.