



Volunteer Position Description

Title: Volunteer Educator

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:

This role is designed for current members of our volunteer team who are interested in working with K-12 youth. Education volunteers primarily assist with school programs. Additional responsibilities include helping with occasional public programs and community outreach events throughout the year. Our educational content is designed to meet Next Generation Science Standards for preK-12th grade students in the state of Oregon. We strive to spark curiosity and wonder by introducing students and guests to the diversity of life found along the Oregon coast and through the exploration of concepts in marine science. Programs range in length from 1-2 hours and during our busy field trip season (mid-March to mid-June) we hold several programs each week. As a result, it is important that you have a genuine interest in teaching students and in continuously learning new information about our local marine life. If interested, our education volunteers can also assist in program development and testing.

Tasks and responsibilities:

- Engage with PreK – 12th grade students in an informal academic setting (70%)
- Spend time learning and reviewing content (20%)
- Help with booths/tables at local community events (10%)

Required skills:

- Comfortable working with students in an educational setting
- An interest in continuing to learn more about the marine life off Oregon
- Excited to work with and inspire young minds (science is cool/learning is fun)
- A background check is also required

Physical demands*:

- Able to tolerate working around cold water
- Ability to be engaged for 1-2 hours at a time

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

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



Time commitment:

Having a flexible schedule, particularly during weekdays, is required. Hours will vary from week to week depending on class scheduling, but expect them to increase during our busy field trip season (mid-March to mid-June). Volunteers are provided options of dates and times to sign up for as teachers register for programs. As this volunteer position plays an integral role in our ability to deliver exceptional programming to visiting student groups, honoring scheduling commitments once made is essential.

Supervision and environment:

At the beginning of your experience as a volunteer educator, you will work directly with a supervisor to ensure that you are familiar with the center and confident with school program materials. You will then work alongside experienced CMLC educators delivering programs to student groups. Over time and if desired, volunteers may have the opportunity to take on a lead role.

Benefits to the volunteer:

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

How to get involved as a Volunteer Educator:

We encourage existing volunteers who are interested in educational programming to visit our website cmlc.uoregon.edu or contact cmlc@uoregon.edu to get involved.