



Fall 2010 Application



How does a sea star eat? What does a bat ray's jaw look like? How do you tell a seal and a sea lion apart? These are only a few of the questions the Oregon Coast Aquarium youth volunteers are able to answer. Using natural history objects such as shark jaws and sea otter fur, young adults entering 9th grade – 12th grade help dispel some of the common misconceptions about sharks and teach Aquarium visitors about marine mammals, seabirds, and marine invertebrates. Students also get the chance to participate in other activities at the Aquarium, including volunteering at special Aquarium events, interacting with Aquarium staff and adult volunteers, field trips, social programs, basic animal care responsibilities, and knowledge enrichment programs.

During spring training youth volunteers spend 36 hours in training with education and animal husbandry staff learning about the natural history of Oregon coast marine animals. Trainees also get to take a behind-the-scenes tour to learn what it takes to care for the animals. During fall training youth attend a one day orientation training and are invited to participate in the extensive spring training if they wish to continue in the program. Once training is completed, youth volunteers commit to serving two 4.5 hour shifts a week during the summer (June - August) interacting with Aquarium visitors. If they choose to volunteer during the school year (October – April) they commit to volunteering 8 hours per month working on a Team Project.

Students participating in the program enjoy many benefits. The experience is fun, educational, and enables them to gain valuable work experience and references. Youth volunteers receive discounts in the Aquarium gift shop and café, complimentary passes after every 100 hours of volunteering, the option of earning three transferable college credits from the Oregon Coast Community College (with the completion of spring training), and an Aquarium membership after volunteering 50 hours.

Please contact Tricia Ratliff, Youth Program Coordinator for more information.
541.867.3474 ext. 5312 / tricia.ratliff@aquarium.org





Youth Volunteer Requirements

To become a youth volunteer you must:



Be in grades 9 – 12
(Entering into 9th grade – the summer after high school graduation)



Submit a completed application packet by **September 7th, 2010**



Ask two adults who are not related to you to fill out a recommendation form for you and send it to the youth program coordinator.



Attend an interview and if selected, pay a \$35 nonrefundable training fee. **Interviews will be scheduled for September 7th – 15th**



Attend mandatory training **September 18th from 9:30 am – 3pm**



Commit to volunteering one 8 hour shift per month October – April. Volunteer days (Saturday or Sunday) are dependent on Team Projects and will be discussed in the interview.

**For more information call
(541) 867-3474 ext 5312
or email tricia.ratliff@aquarium.org**

Keep This for Your Records



Additional Opportunity & Signatures

There is an opportunity to receive college credit from the Oregon Coast Community College if spring training and volunteer hours are successfully completed and requirements are met. It is not a requirement to sign up to receive college credit, however it is an option. Please note that if you do wish to receive college credit the program fee becomes \$75 (\$35 program fee + \$40 college fee).

_____ I would like to receive college credit from Oregon Coast Community College. Please send me more information.

I am sending in my application complete with:

- _____ Contact information
- _____ Signatures
- _____ Application questions

_____ I have asked **two** adults to fill out the reference worksheet. They have agreed to mail it to the youth program coordinator by the application deadline.

By applying to the program and signing below, I understand that I am . . .

1. Agreeing to be interviewed by a representative of the Aquarium. After which if accepted into the program, I can decide to continue or drop from the program.
2. Required to pay a nonrefundable \$35 fee if I continue with the program;
3. Expected to complete all required training if I choose to continue; and
4. Expected to volunteer the required number of hours.

Signature _____ Date _____

By signing below I acknowledge that I have read over the application with my son or daughter and will contact the Youth Program Coordinator if I have any questions or concerns.

Parent /Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____



Application Questions

Please answer these questions yourself. They will help us learn more about you.
Attach additional sheets if you need more space.

(1) Why do you want to be a youth volunteer at the Aquarium? What do you expect or want from your Aquarium experience? What should the Aquarium expect from you?

(2) What extra- curricular activities (hobbies, sports, groups etc.) do you participate in? (School and non-school related).

(3) Describe any experience you have working in a group, with children, teaching others and public speaking.

(4) Have you been involved in other volunteer activities before? If so, please describe.

(5) Can you commit to volunteering the required number of hours?

(6) What is your favorite marine animal and why?

(7) Who will be providing you transportation to and from the Aquarium?

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone number: (_____) _____



Adult Reference

Please complete by **MARCH 1st** and return to:

Youth Program Coordinator - Oregon Coast Aquarium
2820 SE Ferry Slip Road Newport, OR 97365

Applicant:

Put your name on this form and give it to an adult (not related to you) who you feel knows you best at least 2 weeks before the application deadline along with a stamped envelope addressed to the Aquarium. Ask them to mail it as soon as possible since their recommendation is needed to complete your application packet. Please remember to thank them for their help.

To Adult Giving the Reference:

The applicant below is applying to the youth volunteer program at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. The program is for teens entering the 9th grade – 12th grade, who have an interest in the marine environment and animals. The applicants we select should show a desire and ability to teach others and willingness to commit to the program and fulfill its requirements. The focus of their work will be public education and team projects.

We would appreciate your candid responses, which will be kept confidential. Your comments will aid us in selecting a committed group of teens. Thank you for your valuable time and assistance.

If you have any questions about the program, please call the program coordinator at 541.867.3474 ext. 5312

Applicant's name: _____

Adult's name: _____

How long have you known the applicant? _____

In what capacity have you known the applicant?

I recommend this applicant to the Youth Volunteer Program
(check one that represents your opinion)

With great enthusiasm With confidence With some confidence With reservation

Please fill out BOTH the reference & evaluation form



Evaluation

Based on your interactions, please rate the applicant on the following:

SCALE:

U= Unknown 1= Below average 2= Fair 3= Average 4=Good 5= Excellent 6= Outstanding

Oral communication skills	U	1	2	3	4	5	6
Ability to analyze a problem	U	1	2	3	4	5	6
Common sense	U	1	2	3	4	5	6
Curiosity	U	1	2	3	4	5	6
Creativity	U	1	2	3	4	5	6
Dependability	U	1	2	3	4	5	6
Sense of responsibility	U	1	2	3	4	5	6
Self motivation	U	1	2	3	4	5	6
Perseverance	U	1	2	3	4	5	6
Ability to work independently	U	1	2	3	4	5	6
Reaction to feedback	U	1	2	3	4	5	6
Regard to authority	U	1	2	3	4	5	6
Regard for the rules	U	1	2	3	4	5	6
Cooperation	U	1	2	3	4	5	6
Adaptability	U	1	2	3	4	5	6
Behavior in a group	U	1	2	3	4	5	6
Ability to follow directions	U	1	2	3	4	5	6

Do you know of any special interests, qualities, abilities or experience this applicant has which would be helpful for us to be aware of?

Adult's signature: _____

Date: _____



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