

Seymour Center School Programs Volunteer and Intern Information 2022-2023



Thank you for your interest in joining the outstanding people who volunteer to inspire the next generation of students. Our team of school programs instructors brings the wonder and importance of ocean science to life for thousands of students every year. Join us!

What would I be doing as a school programs instructor? Teams of volunteers, interns, and staff work together to engage visiting school groups in the Seymour Center's acclaimed [Discovery Lab & Tour](#) field trip programs. Volunteer instructors lead hands-on, marine science activities to small groups in our classrooms. Volunteers also lead guided tours to marine lab highlights (including marine mammal research overlook, blue whale and gray whale skeletons, and the invertebrate touch tank). Instructors engage with all grade levels (K-12 and community college) however, the majority of groups are K-5 classes.

Benefits: Meet fun and dedicated people who share your enthusiasm for kids, science, and ocean conservation. 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 throughout the year.

Requirements: Responsible, punctual, and reliable. 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 1/4 mile, lift buckets of seawater for holding live marine animals. Enjoy working cooperatively with a team of other volunteers and staff. **Minimum 18 years of age.** Attitude of a life-long learner. Experience working with K-12 youth preferred, but not required.

What does the training cover? Two initial training classes cover details about marine invertebrates commonly used in our Discovery Lab programs and best practices for teaching Next Generation Science Standards with school groups. Trainees will then be paired with experienced school volunteers to help facilitate learning activities and guided tours for visiting school groups.

When and where is the training? The school programs volunteer training series will take place at the Seymour Center from January 10 through February 10. **See the list of specific dates and times below.** All training sessions and shifts are in person. Ongoing training and support will be provided throughout the school year.

Minimum commitment:

- ❖ Attend **training sessions and shifts** (9:20-12:30) from **January 10-February 10.** *See training series details below.*
- ❖ Commit to being available **every week** for a **regularly scheduled volunteer shift** (8:20-11:00 or 10:20-1:00) from **February 14-May 26, 2023.** (E.g. every Tuesday)*
- ❖ Be responsible for covering planned absences from volunteer shifts by swapping days with other school volunteers or by arranging subs.

* **Note:** College students are able to switch volunteer shift days on a quarterly/semester basis to accommodate class schedules. Volunteer intern positions may be available and require additional hours and responsibilities.

How do I apply to become a school programs instructor? Complete a volunteer application online at seymourcenter.ucsc.edu/volunteer. Applications will be reviewed and selected candidates will be contacted for an interview.

School Programs Volunteer Training Series Dates • Winter 2023

1. **Two initial training sessions ((January 10-13)**
 - a. Tuesday AND Thursday, **January 10 and 12, 9:30 AM- 12:30**
 - OR**
 - b. Wednesday AND Friday, **January 11 and 13, 9:30 AM- 12:30**
2. **Weekly training/shadow shifts: 9:20-12:30 (January 17-February 10)**
Once-per-week morning shift (Tu, W, Th, or F)

Trainees must attend two initial training sessions and weekly training/shadow shifts. Each training session covers different material. Different information is covered each day along with additional assignments to complete outside of class.

Need more information or have questions? Contact the Seymour Center Volunteer Office at volunteers@ucsc.edu.