

EDUCATION & OUTREACH VOLUNTEER

In-person only



PURPOSE

Education and Outreach volunteers connect people to SR3 and their local environment, to the impact humans have on marine creatures, and inspire change for a healthier ocean. These volunteers staff booths at community events, run all-ages activities on the beach to promote marine mammal stewardship, and welcome guests to the sealife hospital on the Des Moines waterfront.

NECESSARY SKILLS

- Willingness to stand or sit outdoors for long periods of time
- Comfortable talking with several dozen to several hundred people over the course of a few hours
- Patience and adaptability when working with or around children
- Comfort with admitting when you don't know something, rather than making up an answer
- Ability to converse with folks from different backgrounds or who have different opinions than you

HIGHLY BENEFICIAL SKILLS

- Previous experience in formal or informal educational settings
- Knowledge of marine ecosystems, marine mammal and sea turtle biology, and animal rehabilitation
- Training or experience in interpretive techniques or other science communication tools and methods
- Multilingualism

COMMITMENT

Marine Mammal Stewards (MMS)

- Minimum of two (3 hour) shifts per month from June → September
- Attendance at a Marine Mammal Stewards training is mandatory for this role. Training is in-person and split between two facilities, the SR3 Rescue Center and the MaST Center Aquarium, in Des Moines (WA)

Education & Outreach (General, non-MMS)

- Minimum of 4 hours per month from July → October

APPLICATION & TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Education & Outreach

Attendance at an Education & Outreach volunteer training is mandatory for this role. Training will take place once per season. Foundational training centers around basic ecosystem and marine animal knowledge.

Advancement to the Technical tier requires completing 16 hours at the Foundational Ed & Out tier and a 2 hour training. Technical training centers around leadership and conflict management.

Advancement to the Apex tier requires completing 16 hours at the Technical Ed & Out tier and skills testing with a staff lead. Skills testing includes setting up and taking down a standard booth with the materials we provide.

SUMMARY

Education & Outreach Volunteers will:

Marine Mammal Steward (MMS)

This is a beach naturalist program cooperatively run by SR3 and MaST Center Aquarium

- Connect with the community at Des Moines Beach Park and/or Redondo Beach
- Inform boaters, beachgoers, tidepoolers, and other marine water-users of best practices when they spot marine wildlife
- Run activities with beachgoers to promote marine mammal stewardship, either independently or with other volunteers, interns or staff
- Work with all ages to discover life history, ecology and anatomy of marine animals in the Pacific Northwest
- Educate folks on what to do if they see a marine mammal they are concerned about
- Act as a resource for beachgoers if they have questions about marine wildlife they see along the shore
- Given the training MMS Volunteers receive, they are eligible to participate in Foundational Level Ed & Out opportunities **(but not vice versa)*.

(Non-MMS) Foundational Level

- Support SR³ staff, interns, and technical and apex volunteers in talking about the work that SR³ does with guests of farmers markets, festivals, and other community events
- Work with children, teens, and adults to discover the life history, ecology, and anatomy of the marine animals that SR³ researches and cares for
- Educate folks about the impacts that humans have on marine wildlife in a way that inspires change
- Follow a goal of the booth/event, whether that's to educate, solicit donations, acquire email addresses, or sell merchandise
- Inventory and organize outreach and education materials including: marine animal bones, teeth, and pelts; brochures and infographics; pop-up tents and shades; and more

(Non-MMS) Technical Level

- Continue to perform all tasks at the foundational level
- Acts as the lead during their shift, with or without supervision from a staff member
- Lead small groups of donors, community partners, and students on tours of the sealife hospital
- Process monetary donations and merchandise sales using the Square app and associated hardware

(Non-MMS) Apex Level

- Continue to perform all tasks at the foundational and technical level
- Set-up, breakdown, and operate booths at community events without the supervision of a staff member
- Gather materials at SR3 for community events and/or deliver them back to SR3 after the event
- Supervise technical and foundational level volunteers during outreach events and beach days
- Host virtual tours of SR³'s sea life hospital with schools, community centers, and clubs

BENEFITS

Education and Outreach Volunteers can expect to:

- Grow skills in science interpretation, environmental education, and public speaking
- Interact with other environmentally minded folks while also working to expand the general public's awareness of the needs of the Salish Sea
- Learn basic anatomy and life history of sea life; particularly the pelts, skeletal, and keratinous structures of pinnipeds, otters, and cetaceans
- Practice developing a respectful rapport with community members that may not immediately share the same values or interests
- Spend time outdoors and develop a stronger sense of place with the Salish Sea
- Travel to cities and towns throughout the state of Washington
- Attend festivals and fairs that they otherwise might not have heard about

Education and Outreach Volunteers receive communication and support from the Volunteer Coordinator. For day-of tasks and direction, they will report directly to the Communication and Education Coordinator.

DRESS CODE

Appropriate dress for the day's weather, including one outer layer piece that identifies you as part of SR³ such as a volunteer shirt or SR³ hat. Please consider that you will be standing in one place for a long period, so you may need more layers on cold days than you normally would walking around. Please also bring a bottle of water.

Please direct any questions to the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@sr3.org.