



Job Title: Research Intern (volunteer)

Department: Research

Department Supervisor: Director of Scientific Research and Conservation

Purpose: To assist the Research Department with ongoing monitoring (oysters, seagrass and mangroves) and various research projects. In addition to outlined daily tasks and field work, interns will be expected to conduct an independent research project under the guidance of the department scientists. Interns will gain valuable field and laboratory experience as they are fully integrated into the research department.

Responsibilities: Assist the Research Department in daily activities and duties

These will include the following:

- Monitor created and natural oyster, wetland, and seagrass habitats in the St. Lucie River Estuary and the Indian River Lagoon
- Collect scientific data on oyster and seagrass survival, growth and recruitment
- Data entry into various programs and systems
- Assist with ongoing research projects that aim to restore marine flora and fauna in the St. Lucie River Estuary and the Indian River Lagoon
- Conduct an independent research project under the guidance of department scientists
- Present independent research in a 15-minute presentation to colleagues and guests and submit a written report to the Research Department

Qualifications:

- Current undergraduate or graduate student, at least 18 years old, with an interest in marine biology, wetland ecology, natural resource management, restoration and conservation or related discipline
- Minimum of 16 hours weekly. Field work may involve 8 -10 hour days
- Commitment of one semester, 3-month minimum, or 10-12 weeks during summer
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Ability to walk, wade and work in adverse conditions such as heat, sun exposure, water and uneven terrain
- Ability to lift up to 50 lbs
- Ability to swim and comfortably snorkel
- Must have own transportation, or arrange transportation to the Coastal Center

Training Consists of:

- Orientation
- Direct hands-on training with Research Staff
- Periodic performance evaluations

Benefits:

- There is no housing or monetary compensation with this position
- May be eligible to receive school credit – please check with your internship advisor

Florida Oceanographic's Core Values:

- We believe in learning and understanding all we can about Florida's ocean and coastal ecosystems.
- We believe in teaching children and adults about Florida's environments in an exciting and interactive way.
- We believe in helping the visitors to enjoy and learn from their experiences at the Florida Oceanographic Coastal Center.
- We believe that our approach to work is built on respect for one another and teamwork, including all employees and volunteers, creating a good workplace and allowing work to be exciting and fun.
- We believe in providing the best possible care for all living plants and animals within our exhibits.
- We believe in being good stewards of all the material and financial resources made available to us.
- We believe that our activities and actions should encourage others to be better stewards of Florida's ocean and coastal ecosystems.

Mission Statement:

Florida Oceanographic's mission is to inspire environmental stewardship of Florida's coastal ecosystems through education, research and advocacy.

Intern Agreement:

I commit to fulfilling the above responsibilities to the best of my ability. I further acknowledge there may be changes to this position over time and that it is my responsibility to stay current with changes as they pertain to my role at the Coastal Center. I also understand that policies and procedures are set in place for the safety and well-being of the animals, visitors, volunteers, staff and the organization as a whole. Updates to policies and procedures are posted in the volunteer station. I acknowledge it is my responsibility to review changes to policies and procedures at the beginning of each scheduled shift. I commit freely to working with Florida Oceanographic Society, to uphold its core values and strive to fulfill its mission.

Due May 1st, 2021

After filling out the online volunteer application, please submit a resume or CV with a cover letter expressing your interest to:

Dr. Loraé Simpson, Director of Research and Conservation

lsimpson@floridaocean.org

A letter of recommendation from a professor or professional who can speak on your scientific merits is required. Please have your reference sent directly to:

lsimpson@floridaocean.org