



Job Title: Research Intern (volunteer)

Department: Research

Department Supervisor: Director of Scientific Research and Conservation

Purpose: To assist the Research Department with their various tasks pertaining to FLOOR (Florida Oceanographic Oyster Restoration), FOSTER (Florida Oceanographic Seagrass Training Education Restoration) and other department programs. Interns will gain valuable field and behind the scenes 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 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 oyster and seagrass populations in the St. Lucie River Estuary and the Indian River Lagoon
- Ability to represent programs to small and large audiences
- Assist, in the field and lab, in Research Department programs (as needed)

Qualifications:

- High School or college student at least 17 years old with an interest in marine biology, environmental education, natural resource management or recreation/outdoor education (certain exceptions to age requirement may be considered)
- Ability to work 8-12 hours weekly (minimum 4 hour shift, with possible 8 hour shift, with breaks after 4 hours). Field work may involve 8 hour days. Summer requires a minimum of 16 hours weekly (minimum 4 hour shift, at least one 8 hour shift, with breaks after 4 hours)
- Ability to lift up to 50 lbs
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Ability to walk, wade and work in shallow water with exposure to the elements
- Maintain cleanliness of work area, equipment and facility
- Comfortable snorkeling
- Commitment of one semester minimum or 8-10 weeks during summer
- 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

Time Commitments:

- We ask that you commit to a regular schedule of two to three 4-hour shifts per week (summer requires an additional 8-hour shift)
- Commitment of one semester minimum or 8-10 weeks during the summer
- Shifts are between 8am-5pm but vary depending on the project

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.

Volunteer Name (printed): _____

Volunteer Signature: _____ Date: _____

For more information on the Research Intern position, please contact:
Vincent Encomio, Ph.D

Director of Scientific Research and Conservation
at vencomio@floridaocean.org or 772-225-0505 x112