

Aquarium Program: Community Engagement Internship

Purpose

Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant is looking for a motivated and energetic individual who enjoys working with diverse groups of people and is interested in public engagement in an aquarium setting. This internship is intended for undergraduate or graduate students with an interest in pursuing a career in marine education or related field.

Objectives

- Assist in development and implementation of interactive aquarium programming during the busy summer months
- Provide inclusive and diverse methods of engagement with visiting public
- Utilize skills and knowledge gathered during undergraduate/graduate studies
- Work in an environment conducive to learning and professional growth

Project Description

Under the supervision of Marine Educators at the UGA Aquarium, intern will strive to engage visitors to the UGA Aquarium, assisting volunteers, staff and faculty in daily onsite programming and tabling activities. Summer is the busiest time of the year for visitor engagement. Educators are involved in Summer Marine Science Camp and with large group onsite visits. The person in this internship will help to fill a need to offer each visiting family a chance to interact through educational activities that are designed to reach a diverse audience. The incorporation of multiple learning methods and inclusive features such as tactile, auidial and multilingual activities will be encouraged.

Job Duties and Responsibilities

- Assisting visitors at the touch tanks
- Providing interpretation in front of aquarium tanks and exhibits
- Engaging aquarium visitors with tabling activities and science based hands-on demonstrations
- Teaching short classes or leading activities to engage with public
- Leading tours of the aquarium
- Interpreting aquarium exhibits through tank talks or narrating during feedings
- Assist in support and scheduling of Aquarium Volunteer Docents
- Assist at front desk greeting, processing admission, directing and giving information to the public, or program participants to ease flow throughout the facility

* The **Community Engaged Internship** program with the UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant is designed to support the inclusion and participating of diverse individuals who bring a range of perspectives, values, and tools to assist on projects and

initiatives relating to Georgia's ocean, coastal, and marine environments. Students applying for summer internships may be eligible for funding through the CEI program if they represent an underrepresented or marginalized community or if they have interest in engaging with underserved communities through their summer internship.

Location and Hours

- UGA Aquarium: 30 Ocean Science Circle, Savannah, GA 31411
- 40 hours/week during 10-week period to include June - July 2023

Minimum Requirements

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Intern must be currently enrolled in accredited college/university
- United States citizen or possess a valid U.S. work visa
- Physical ability to work indoors in summer heat and lift objects up to 50 lbs
- Pre and post internship assessments, progress and summary reports, and exit interview

Preferred Requirements

- Undergraduates majoring in Science Education, Education, or related field
- Excellent team working, communication, and leadership skills
- Has experience working in outreach to or youth programs
- Experience working with under-served communities, special needs education, or multilingual setting

Compensation:

CEI interns are awarded a \$5000 stipend paid in several installments throughout the summer

Community Engaged Interns will be part of a national cohort of students. Each Sea Grant program varies, but the cohort will engage with other students through the following.

- An 8-10-week summer internship with on-the-ground learning that includes the completion of a project that extends the knowledge of community stakeholders to address a coastal or marine issue of environmental, economic and/or social importance.
- Participation in all CEI professional development and training opportunities.
- Mentoring by Sea Grant professionals, Sea Grant-funded researchers, partner organizations, and Sea Grant Knauss Fellows.
- Virtual professional development sessions.

- Peer discussions with other interns in the cohort using Slack or other virtual platforms.
- A graduation ceremony to celebrate accomplishments, network with peers and other professionals (in-person meeting included, dependent on status of COVID-19 travel restrictions). Participation in pre- and post-evaluation.
- Learn more here: [Community Engaged Internship for Undergraduate Students \(noaa.gov\)](https://www.noaa.gov/community-engaged-internship-for-undergraduate-students)

Supervisor

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