



OREGON COAST AQUARIUM



Fall 2009

# Youth Volunteer Application

## Oregon Coast Aquarium Youth Volunteer Program

How does a sea star eat? What does a bat ray's jaw look like? How do you tell a seal and a sea lion apart? These are only a few of the questions the Oregon Coast Aquarium youth volunteers are able to answer. Using natural history objects such as shark jaws and sea otter fur, teens 14-17 years old help dispel some of the common misconceptions about sharks and teach Aquarium visitors about marine mammals, seabirds, and marine invertebrates. Youths also get the chance to participate in other programs at the Aquarium, including interpreting at special Aquarium events, team projects, job shadows with the animal care staff, field trips, animal care responsibilities, and knowledge enrichment programs.

There are two opportunities each year for youth to participate in the youth volunteer training program. The Aquarium offers a training session in May and another session in September. During the training sessions, youth receive an orientation to the Aquarium, spend time in training with education and animal husbandry staff learning about the natural history of Oregon coast marine animals and learn how to work collaboratively with their peers. Trainees also get to take a behind-the-scenes tour to learn what it takes to care for the animals.

Once training is completed, youth volunteers commit to serving two 4.5 hour shifts a week during the summer from July through August 2009. They are encouraged to continue during the school year. If they choose to attend the fall training class in September, they commit to serving a 7 hour shift once per month from October, 2009 through April, 2010. The summer program focuses on interpreting throughout the Aquarium while the fall program involves team projects that will be presented to Aquarium staff and visitors. If fall trainees wish to continue on through the summer they must attend additional training in spring that will cover specific animal content and interpretive training.



Youth participating in the program enjoy many benefits. The experience is fun, educational, and enables students to gain valuable work experience, and references. Youth volunteers get discounts in the Aquarium gift shop, and café, complimentary passes after every 100 hours of volunteering, the opportunity to earn 3 transferable college credits from the Oregon Coast Community College (spring training only), and if they serve for a year are eligible to receive an Aquarium membership.

For more information contact:

**Tricia Ratliff**

Youth Program Coordinator  
tricia.ratliff@aquarium.org  
(541) 867-3474 ext 5312

**Carmen Morgan, Volunteer Manager**

(541) 867-3474 ext 5315  
Carmen.morgan@aquarium.org





OREGON COAST AQUARIUM

## Youth Volunteer Requirements



To become a youth volunteer you must:



Be 14-17 years old



Submit a completed application packet by **August 3, 2009**



Submit two letters of recommendation from adults that are not related to you. Both letters must be included in the application packet.



Attend an interview (interviews will be scheduled August 4<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>) and if selected, pay a \$35 nonrefundable training fee.



Attend every day of training:  
**September 5 & September 12**



Have a parent or guardian attend a parent meeting on **September 12th at 3:00 p.m.** If this is not possible, the youth coordinator should be contacted for other arrangements.



Commit to volunteering one 7 hour shift per month, from October, 2009 through April, 2010. Days available to volunteer are Saturdays and Sundays.

For more information call  
(541) 867-3474 ext 5312

or email [tricia.ratliff@aquarium.org](mailto:tricia.ratliff@aquarium.org)

**Keep this sheet for your records**

# Youth Volunteer Program Fall 2009

Timeline

**July 3<sup>rd</sup> – August 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Applications accepted

**August 4 – 14<sup>th</sup>**

Interviews

**August 21<sup>st</sup>**

Letters of acceptance & final forms are mailed

**September 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**

New youth volunteer training & tuition due

**September 12**

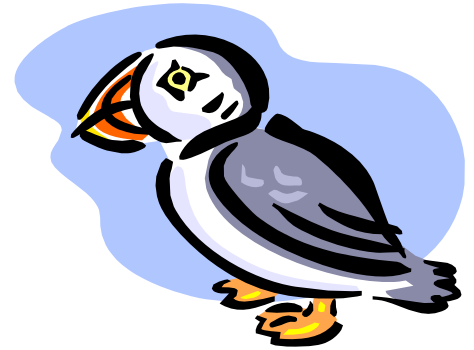
New youth volunteer parent meeting @ 3pm

**Volunteers come in the same day of each month**

October – March

**Project presentations**

April 10<sup>th</sup>



*Keep this sheet for your records*



To: Parent or Guardian of applicant

From: Tricia Ratliff, Youth Program Coordinator

We are pleased that your son or daughter is interested in becoming a youth volunteer at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. This is a position with a lot of responsibility and great rewards. This volunteer opportunity will be educational and enable your son or daughter to gain valuable experience. ***Please write below why you believe your teen would be a good member of our team.*** By signing the form, you give permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in the Youth Volunteer Program. Thank you for your assistance.

Signature of parent or guardian \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the application packet and will be able to attend the parent meeting on September 12, 2009 at 3pm.

I will not be able to attend the parent meeting and need to make other arrangements.

Please return with application

# FALL 2009 OREGON COAST AQUARIUM YOUTH VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Mail to: Tricia Ratliff, Youth Program Coordinator, Oregon Coast Aquarium,  
2820 S.E. Ferry Slip Road, Newport, OR 97365  
Phone: (541) 867-3474, ext. 5312

## PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Female Male

School name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone numbers:

City, state & zip \_\_\_\_\_ Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you want to be a youth volunteer at the Aquarium? What do you expect or want from your Aquarium experience? What should the Aquarium expect of you? Attach an extra sheet if necessary.

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Can you commit to volunteering one full day per month November - April? Yes No

If no, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you had experience as a volunteer? Yes No

If yes, please describe:

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(continue on other side)

What would you like to gain from volunteering at the Aquarium?

- Knowledge about marine life of the Oregon coast
- Social opportunities with new friends
- Skills for resumé development and possible future employment
- Credits and experience towards high school or college level classes
- Making a contribution to the community
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Activities—Interests—Hobbies**

**At school:**

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**Away from school:**

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**What is your favorite marine animal?** \_\_\_\_\_

Who will be providing you with transportation to the Oregon Coast Aquarium?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**References: This application must include two letters of recommendation. These letters must be from adults who are not related to you (teachers, coaches, family friends, etc.).**

**Please write the names of the people who will be providing your letters of recommendation.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

By registering for training, I understand that I am . . .

1. Agreeing to be interviewed by a representative of the Aquarium. After this time I can decide to continue or drop from the program.
2. Required to pay a nonrefundable \$35 fee if I continue with the program after being accepted
3. Expected to complete all required training if I choose to continue
4. Expected to volunteer a minimum of two shifts per week for the summer volunteer season and/or one full day per month during the fall volunteer season.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent /Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return your completed application along with your letters of recommendation and parent recommendation letter to the Youth Program Coordinator*