

Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center Summer Stranding Internships

The Virginia Aquarium's Research & Conservation Division is now accepting Stranding Response Intern applications for summer 2015. There are several positions available. The application deadline is March 9, 2015. Please note that all internships are non-compensatory and intern housing is not provided by the Virginia Aquarium.

Duties: Assist with dead and live stranding response of marine mammals and sea turtles. This includes, but is not limited to: necropsies, data and sample collection, animal disposal, cleaning, office organization, data entry and management, live animal husbandry, working with volunteer team members and staff and other activities as assigned. Review a full list of duties included below:

- Assist in stranding response for dead marine mammals and sea turtles in the field and at the Stranding Center. Work may be done under extremely adverse weather conditions.
- Assist in the collection of Level A data for the National Marine Fisheries Service.
- Participate in post-mortem data collection and necropsies.
- Assist in care for animals during rehabilitation including, but not limited to, food prep, feeding, cleaning (mopping floor, washing dirty laundry, vacuuming tanks, washing dishes, etc.), tank repairs, and other husbandry duties. Assist in coordinating the release of rehabilitated and disentangled animals.
- Assist with public outreach and education events.
- Assist with volunteer and cooperator trainings.
- Assist staff with daily administrative tasks including answering phones, taking messages, preparing volunteers for response, and data entry.
- Develop and complete an independent, staff approved project and 15 minute presentation for the stranding staff and volunteers
- Other duties as assigned by Virginia Aquarium Stranding Response staff

Qualifications: Applicants must: 1) be at least 18 years of age; 2) be able to, and comfortable with driving full-sized pick-up trucks; 3) be in good physical condition and able to lift over 40 pounds or assist with heavier loads and 4) be able to work in adverse conditions. Applicants must commit to 10 weeks and work well both independently and as part of a team. Candidates should be self-motivated, articulate, mature, reliable, responsible and able to take, as well as give direction. Internships are open to undergraduate and graduate students. Preference is given to students who have completed their sophomore year and are working towards credit for a degree in science. A background in biology and familiarity with stranding response is preferred but not required.

Requirements: Interns are expected to work 24 hours a week (three eight-hour days) for 10 consecutive weeks without exception. Housing and transportation cannot be provided. Most of the animals the stranding center works with are dead (approximately 95%) and most are decomposing. The center may get 10-12 strandings per day in the peak summer season. This is a position that requires a strong nose, stomach and mental state. IT IS NOT FOR EVERYONE! Please consider this before applying.

A complete Stranding Response Intern application packet must include the following required components:

- Cover Letter
- Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center internship application form (<http://www.virginiaaquarium.com/join/internships>)
- (2) Letters of Recommendation (one must be from an academic instructor)
- Statement of Intent: (1) page describing how the intern applicant intends to use the internship experience to assist in career or academic goals.
- Resume
- Official College Transcript(s)

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