



## Release Event Volunteer

**About Us:** The Marine Mammal Care Center Los Angeles (MMCC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and a leader in the field of marine mammal health and conservation. MMCC is the only organization authorized by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to respond to marine mammals in distress along the entire Los Angeles County coastline from Malibu to Seal Beach, Catalina Island, and at sea. MMCC has rehabilitated nearly 10,000 marine mammals and returned them to their ocean home since its founding in 1992. Located in San Pedro, MMCC operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with a staff of 18 and 200 actively engaged volunteers.

**Mission and Vision:** The mission of the Marine Mammal Care Center is to inspire ocean conservation through marine animal rescue and rehabilitation, education, and research. Our vision is of a healthy ocean ecosystem where people and marine life thrive together. Marine Mammals are ecosystem indicators, and these animals provide insights into human and ocean threats. We are taking action today to support a network of professionals and stewards to protect our shared ocean environment for future generations.

### Role Description:

At the Marine Mammal Care Center, our goal is to rehabilitate sick, injured, and malnourished seals and sea lions and once healthy, return them to the ocean. Throughout the year, MMCC hosts special release events and invites supporters, donors, and volunteers to come and celebrate our patients' return to the sea. The Release Event Volunteers attend our release events and help ensure our guests check in, receive pertinent information about the release, know where to go, and enjoy their experience. These volunteers are expected to be at the release site (location will vary) and should be comfortable walking along sand and other beach terrain. Volunteers will have the opportunity to view the release after registration is complete.

**Below, you'll find the release event volunteer opportunities:**



## **Registration**

Responsibilities include:

- Setup/teardown of registration booth
- Greeting Release Event guests
- Checking guests in for the event
- Educating guests about the patients in our care and our mission
- Updating MMCC staff of guest arrival, number of guests checked in, etc.
- Ensuring guests have pertinent information about the release and a positive experience
- Ability to engage with both guests and the public and answer questions

## **Parking Attendant**

Responsibilities include:

- Proactively welcoming guests and volunteers to the release event and passing out parking permits (as needed)
- Guiding guests and volunteers to the appropriate parking area as well as helping them identify where to check in at registration
- Answering questions and ensuring guests have a positive experience
- The volunteer must be 14 years or older and have reliable transportation to the release event

## **Beach Lookout**

Responsibilities include:

- Creating a calm environment for the patients. Approaching the public with kindness and compassion, asking people not affiliated with our release event and any people with dogs to move away from the release area
- Educating guests about the patients in our care and the importance of creating a safe, calm environment for these animals to return to the sea
- Removing any trash or other barriers/obstacles that may be at the release site
- Ensuring guests have pertinent information about the release and a positive experience
- Ability to engage with both guests and the public and answering questions



## **Refreshment Table**

Responsibilities include:

- Setup/teardown of refreshment booth
- Greeting Release Event guests and offering food and beverages
- Keeping the refreshment table stocked
- Educating guests about the patients in our care and our mission
- Ensuring guests have pertinent information about the release and a positive experience
- Ability to engage with both guests and the public and answering questions

## **Education Table**

Special Requirement: Must be a trained MMCC Education Docent

Responsibilities include:

- Setup/teardown of education booth
- Greeting Release Event guests
- Educating guests about the patients in our care and our mission
- Ensuring guests have pertinent information about the release and a positive experience
- Use outreach tools like biofacts (model skulls, seal/sea lion props) to engage guests
- Ability to engage with both guests and the public and answering questions

## **Gift Shop Table**

Special Requirement: Must be a trained MMCC Gift Shop Volunteer

Responsibilities include:

- Setup/teardown of gift shop booth
- Greeting Release Event guests
- Assisting guests with gift shop purchases and donations - must be comfortable handling retail transactions



- Ensuring guests have a positive experience
- Ability to engage with both guests and the public and answering questions

## **Boarders**

Special Requirement: Must be a trained MMCC Animal Care Volunteer

Responsibilities include:

- Unloading/Loading Boards from MMCC Delivery Vehicle
- Keeping patients and guests safe using proper boarding techniques
- Ensuring patients find their way back to the sea
- Ability to engage with both guests and the public and answering questions
- Ensuring guests have a positive experience

## **Commitment:**

The Release Event - Registration Volunteer is on an “as needed” basis. The frequency and location of these events will vary but will generally take place 5-10 times per year from April through August. Typically our release events occur in the morning on a weekday (about 7am - 10am) and volunteers will have advance notice.

## **Requirements:**

The volunteer must be 18 years or older and have reliable transportation to the release event. The volunteer should be competent in the following areas:

- Communicate effectively and comfortably with people of all ages
- A willingness to collaborate and communicate with other volunteers and MMCC staff
- Able to manage time effectively
- Able to handle potentially stressful situations with composure and professionalism

## **Contact:**

If you are interested in the Release Event Volunteer position, please contact the Volunteer Services Manager at [kwong@marinemammalcare.org](mailto:kwong@marinemammalcare.org)