



Education Volunteer – Docent

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. We rescue more marine mammals per mile of coastline than any other organization in the United States. Located in San Pedro, MMCC operates 7 days a week, 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 health 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:

The Docent volunteer will assist the Education team with guest interaction, marine conservation education, and daily operations. This volunteer reports to the Education staff and may be primarily on-site at the hospital and educational facility in San Pedro, California, but may have some remote scheduling.

Duties include:

- Facilitating visitor learning along the patient viewing area of the hospital
- Preparing for visitors by ensuring that all displays are set up at the beginning of the day and brought inside at the end of the day.
- Educating visitors about our patients, overall ocean health, and what they can do to make a positive impact
- Generate conversations that highlight the role people play in environmental conservation and how to support a healthy ocean environment.
- Ensuring a safe and positive experience for all who visit MMCC
- Answering visitor questions
- Public Outreach

Docents are encouraged to continue their personal growth and development with the education team, potentially learning the Gift Store Associate and Teen Greeter volunteer roles.



Commitment:

Docent Volunteers will commit to one shift per week or every other week if arranged with the Volunteer Services Manager. Volunteers may choose to work a morning shift from 9:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or an afternoon shift from 12:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, or Mondays. Volunteers must commit to a consistent schedule for at least six months.

Requirements:

The Education Docent Volunteer must be 18 years or older. Each volunteer must have reliable transportation to the hospital. Experience in education is beneficial but not required. The volunteer should be comfortable in all the following areas:

- Talking to diverse groups of people
- Learning facts about Marine Biology and other related topics, such as environmental pollution and climate change
- Willing to collaborate with other volunteers and MMCC Staff
- Handling potentially stressful situations with professionalism and composure

The selected candidate(s) will participate in a full volunteer onboarding process, including an application, interview, background check, orientation, and role-specific training.

Position Impact:

Docent Volunteers play a vital role in the mission of MMCC by providing visitors with an educational experience of our work in ocean conservation. These volunteers impact the future health of our ocean by inspiring and encouraging visitors to take action and educating audiences about our work. This opportunity allows volunteers to learn a great deal about the marine mammals in our local waters and how we impact their environment. This is an excellent opportunity for those who enjoy interacting with others.

Contact:

For questions or to apply for this important volunteer role, contact the Volunteer Services Manager, Kelsey Wong (she/her), at kwong@marinemammalcare.org.