



Pinniped Patrol - Burton Chase Park Hub Volunteer

Marine Mammal Care Center Los Angeles (MMCC) is the only year-round organization authorized by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of sick and injured marine mammals in Los Angeles County. Since 1992, MMCC has treated over 10,000 patients suffering from malnutrition, entanglement, domoic acid poisoning, and other human and environmental threats.

In addition to lifesaving care, MMCC serves as a hub for ocean conservation education, offering immersive programs to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards. MMCC's work is grounded in science, compassion, and community engagement, and it plays a vital role in protecting marine life along Southern California's coastline.

By addressing the urgent needs of stranded animals and sharing their stories with the public, MMCC connects people to the ocean and empowers them to take action for a more sustainable future.

MISSION AND VISION: The mission of the Marine Mammal Care Center Los Angeles is to inspire ocean conservation through marine mammal rescue and rehabilitation, education, and research. Our vision is of a healthy ocean ecosystem where people and marine life thrive together.

Role Description:

The Burton Chase Park (BCP) Hub is a community outreach program in Marina Del Rey. This program builds upon our successful **Pinniped Patrol** model to engage the public in marine mammal conservation, provide educational resources, and assist in marine mammal monitoring. Volunteers will help operate an **educational outreach booth (The Hub)**, share knowledge about marine mammals, and contribute to community science efforts by documenting local pinniped populations.

Duties:

Community Outreach & Interpretation: Engage the public by sharing information about MMCC, local marine mammals, and conservation actions. Use interactive tools, including biofacts, a pledge wall, and educational materials, to inspire ocean stewardship.

Marine Mammal Monitoring & Community Science: Collect data on pinniped populations, including daily population counts, tag numbers, entanglement scars, and overall health observations. Volunteers contribute to scientific research that informs conservation efforts.



Stranding Response Support: Serve as first responders for stranded marine mammals within a 5-mile radius by reporting cases to the MMCC hotline and creating a safe perimeter until the rescue team arrives.

Sea Lion Observation: Assist visitors in identifying key sea lion behaviors and health indicators using binoculars and observation tools. Help the public distinguish between healthy and sick sea lions, understand human impacts on marine life, and recognize conservation challenges.

Educational Activities: Facilitate engaging activities such as the **Pledge Wall**, where visitors commit to marine conservation actions, and the **Can the Trash Coloring Activity**, which promotes awareness of ocean pollution and environmental responsibility.

Commitment:

BCP Hub Volunteers will commit to at least two shifts per month on Saturdays from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm for at least six months. Volunteers will work remotely at BCP in partnership with Beaches and Harbors.

Volunteers are allowed 10 absences per year if they make a weekly commitment, or 5 absences per year if they volunteer twice a month. Excessive absences (determined by supervisors) will result in forfeiture of position.

Requirements:

BCP Hub Volunteers must be 18 years or older. Participants must have their own housing, medical insurance, accommodations, and reliable transportation. A background check will be required upon acceptance into the program. No previous experience is required, as training will be provided during the onboarding process. The volunteer should be physically capable of standing and walking for long periods of time and should have good public speaking skills. In addition, volunteers should be comfortable in the following areas:

- Passion for marine conservation and public engagement
- Comfortable speaking with diverse audiences in an outdoor setting
- Ability to follow MMCC protocols for data collection and public safety

The selected candidate will participate in the onboarding process, which includes an online application, a background check, orientation, and training.

Position Impact:

The BCP Hub Volunteer plays a vital role in offsite Outreach and Education. Volunteers will work closely with our Rescue and Response team and may gain experience assisting with our most common species: California Sea Lions, Northern Elephant Seals, and Pacific Harbor Seals. They



also build lasting relationships with fellow volunteers, interns, and staff members.

Contact:

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