



Pinniped Patrol 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:

Pinniped Patrol Volunteers are on-call remote volunteers who support the Rescue and Response team. If our team cannot respond promptly to a reported stranding or needs additional help, they will contact the Pinniped Patrol, groups of volunteers organized by zones via WhatsApp. The first available Pinniped Patrol volunteer(s) will head to the beach to set up a safety barrier with cones, caution tape, and educational signs (if available) and educate people about keeping their distance and what to do when they see a stranded pinniped. This role is advisory and educational only and never actively prohibits someone from going too close to a stranded pinniped.

Duties may include:

- Looking for the animal at the reported location
- Assisting the MMCC rescue staff as requested
- Serving as an offsite extension of the mission and vision of the MMCC
- Educating people about marine mammals, our organization and politely asking them not to approach the marine mammal.



- Documenting animals through photographs, videos

Locations Supported:

The Marine Mammal Care Center supports marine mammals across Los Angeles County. While our response region is all of LA County, we have divided Pinniped Patrol into three most needed zones:

- Zone 1: Dockweiler Beach — Will Rogers State Beach
- Zone 2: RAT Beach — Manhattan Beach
- Zone 3: Long Beach

Volunteers can sign up to be on-call within the zone that is most convenient for them.

Commitment:

On-call Pinniped Patrol volunteers will have an opportunity to support the Rescue and Response team anytime there is a need in their zone. You do not need to respond if you are unavailable during that time. An available volunteer will step forward to assist the team. Volunteers must commit for at least 3 months.

Requirements:

Pinniped Patrol 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:

- Quick learner
- Flexibility
- Following instructions
- Stress Management/Composure
- Team player
- Must effectively communicate in written and spoken English
- Using smartphones
- Using Mapping apps (Apple Maps, Google Maps, etc.)



- Texting and sending pictures with a phone

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

Position Impact:

The Pinniped Patrol 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.