

# Task Description

## Marine Awareness Assistants

### Wembury Marine Centre 2019 Season

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**Devon**  
Wildlife Trust

**Opportunity:** Three Voluntary Marine Awareness Assistants at Devon Wildlife Trust / Wembury Marine Centre (WMC).

WMC is managed by Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT) on behalf of a partnership of funders, providing marine environmental education activities to school groups of all ages and to the public. The Centre is staffed by two members of DWT staff (one full time and one-part time). Marine Awareness Assistants provide vital support and assistance in the busy season, plus a team of part time volunteers offer additional support.

#### **Purpose:**

Wembury Marine Conservation Area (MCA) is an area of incredibly varied and special wildlife that is used by many people. From its creation in 1994 the work of WMC has focussed on raising awareness and understanding with visitors and local people, both of the diverse and special wildlife present on the shore, and of how to conserve and care for it now and in the future.

WMC sits at the heart of the MCA and provides the public interface between visitors and the marine environment. WMC receives over 20,000 visitors and works with over 4,000 people each year.

#### **Your Role:**

Marine Awareness Assistants (MAAs) will contribute towards the ongoing success of the WMC Partnership by providing vital support to the members of staff. Once trained you will lead and organise events and educational activities and open up the visitor centre. This allows WMC to be open more regularly and allows further bookings of school groups and more public events to be planned. In addition, MAAs will work on wider projects which will benefit WMC & the MCA.

#### **What the role involves:**

The posts are (approximately) 6 month unpaid volunteer roles and there are 3 posts available. *The posts are 4 days per week.*

Please note that no accommodation is offered or available.

Marine Awareness Assistants will be involved in raising awareness of the marine environment through education and interpretation.

Key tasks include (training will be provided):

- Planning, organising and leading public events – including rockpool and snorkel safaris, beach cleans, guided walks and craft activities
- Delivering environmental education activities for schools both on the rocky shore and delivering school talks in the classroom
- Manning the visitor centre and engaging with the public to promote the MCA

Other tasks will include maintaining a cold water rockpool aquarium, developing new interpretation material and resources, monitoring of marine species, evaluating educational

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work, giving talks and engaging in community involvement, promotion of WMC via social media and WMC website. There will also be opportunity to gain experience in managing volunteers.

The role will involve being outside on the beach, rocky shore, coast path and surrounding area and activities take place rain or shine.

The role is subject to a successful interview; references and a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check will be taken as the role involves extensive working with children.

#### **Skills and abilities:**

We are looking for **aptitude** and **potential** and envisage this would be an excellent opportunity for a recent graduate wanting to further their skills and knowledge to enter the conservation job market or for more experienced people looking for a change in direction.

#### **Essential skills**

- Excellent interpersonal skills – the ability to engage and enthuse with school groups and members of the public
- Enthusiasm for the placement and for interpreting the marine environment
- Good organisational skills
- Good written and spoken communication skills
- Able to acquire new skills quickly
- Self-motivated and a team player, able to work effectively within a small team structure and using own initiative
- Happy to work outside and in all weathers, the work will regularly involve walking on slippery seaweed covered rocks.

#### **Advantageous skills**

- A marine background and knowledge of rocky shores
- Experience of working with people and children
- Experience of environmental education
- Experience of maintaining aquaria
- Driving licence and own transport (please state on application)

#### **Where:**

Wembury Marine Centre, Church Road, Wembury, Plymouth, PL9 0HP.

Travel to schools and to local events will also be required.

#### **When and how often:**

We are looking for commitment to the role for **4 days a week**. WMC is open 7 days a week throughout the season and therefore; Roles will be either Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday each week or Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday each week with some flexibility.

Role will include unsociable hours as WMC is open at weekends and on bank holidays.

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#### **Who is the supervisor:**

Devon Wildlife Trust's Marine Awareness Officer and Marine Education Officer.  
Devon Wildlife Trust's Volunteers Officer is also available to support volunteers.

#### **Training/equipment available:**

Formal training in First Aid will be provided.

In house training from the current team including marine species ID will also be provided.

There may also be opportunity for BSAC Snorkel Instructor training, Techniques in Environmental Education, Volunteer Management, and Safeguarding (tbc).

Reasonable travel expenses will be covered.

#### **What's in it for the volunteer?**

The experience gained by completing the placement will provide excellent skills for the volunteers' CVs. Many of WMC's volunteers have gone on to gain employment in the conservation sector and in a marine conservation field.

The role will provide the opportunity to learn more about the rocky shore environment, improve communication and public engagement skills, gain valuable skills in delivering environmental education and meet new people and make new friends.

#### **How to apply:**

We ask that applicants feel confident they will be able to commit to this role for the full 6 months and be available for interview.

Application is by CV and covering letter to DWT Marine Awareness Officer, Cat Andrews.

Please email applications to [info@wemburymarinecentre.org](mailto:info@wemburymarinecentre.org) or post to Wembury Marine Centre, Church Road, Wembury, Devon, PL9 0HP.

**Closing date for applications:** 5pm Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2019.

**Interviews:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019. Interviews will be held at Wembury Marine Centre, PL9 0HP.

**Start date:** Week commencing March 18<sup>th</sup> 2019

**Task end date:** End of September 2019