

Task Description for Marine Awareness Helpers Part-time seasonal volunteer at Wembury Marine Centre - 2019 season



What the task involves:

Volunteers will be given the opportunity to take part in public events such as rockpool safaris and family fun days, as well as participating in the work the Centre does with local schools. Your main duties will include –

- Assisting groups with a guided tour of the rockpools at Wembury and introducing them to the species found there, this includes school groups as well as family groups on public events
- Assisting with other WMC activities including arts & crafts, beach cleans, stream dipping, fire lighting, den building, beach games, beach combing and beach litter surveys.
- Interacting with members of the public, and helping with any enquiries
- Engaging and enthusing visitors, encouraging them to take an interest in marine issues, especially children

It is important to note that some of the tasks involve working outdoors in all weather conditions between the months of April to September, and does include events on weekends and bank holidays.

Purpose:

The primary purpose of this position is to aid the Marine Awareness Officer and Marine Education Officer and full time volunteers in providing an educational experience to members of the public about the importance of marine habitats, particularly those of the rocky shores of Wembury.

Skills and abilities - Skills that the role uses includes;

- Confidence in speaking to members of the public.
- Good communication skills
- Physically fit enough to walk across slippery rocks
- Some background knowledge of the local area and of rockpool species is advantageous
- Happy to work in unfavourable weather conditions
- Enthusiasm for protecting the marine environment
- Flexibility with available hours
- Enjoys getting involved with wider beach based activities
- Able to present information to school groups with confidence
- Reliable and Punctual
- Good team member and happy in a small team of mixed ages

Where:

Volunteers will be based at the Wembury Marine Centre (near Plymouth), and will work on the beach and rockpools of Wembury.

When and how often:

Volunteer hours for this role are very flexible, and are offered to suit the individual's needs. They will predominantly be involved with public events which are usually held at weekends and bank holidays. There is also the possibility for volunteers to be involved with school rockpooling sessions, which occur during school hours in term time. Rockpool safaris

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typically last for 1-1.5 hours, school sessions for up to 3 hours and fun day events from approx 10am – 4pm.

Who is the supervisor:

There are two members of DWT staff based at Wembury Marine Centre in 2018 - Coral Smith is the Marine Education Officer and Cat Andrews is the Marine Awareness Officer. There are also two full time volunteer Marine Awareness Assistants and two full time volunteer interns who will help you settle into your role, and provide you with the training required to identify the common rockpool species.

Expenses/equipment available:

Some travel expenses can be offered in line with Devon Wildlife Trust's Volunteer Policy. A parking permit is available at Wembury beach for volunteers for the duration of the volunteering activity (therefore no parking charges incurred).

T-shirts and/or jackets will be available for the volunteer to wear, however volunteers are advised to bring their own wellies or other suitable footwear when going on rockpool safaris plus their own wet weather gear / sun protection items.

Health and Safety/ Risk Assessment

Risk assessments are available for all activities the volunteer will be expected to carry out. The main considerations for this role are –

- Working outdoors in a variety of weather conditions on slippery seaweed covered rocks and near water.
- Working with children and/or vulnerable adults.
- Possibility of encountering species that could cause an allergic reaction.

What's in it for the volunteer?

The volunteer will have the opportunity to learn more about the amazing marine environment and the local area.

The volunteer will gain skills in presenting this information to school children and members of the public. They will be a valuable part of the work being done by the Devon Wildlife Trust to protect wildlife for future generations. There is also the opportunity to meet like-minded people, and to socialise with other volunteers following events.

How to apply

Phone the Wembury Marine Centre on 01752 862538, and ask to speak to Coral Smith or Cat Andrews. Or send an email expressing your interest to

info@wemburymarinecentre.org

- An informal telephone interview will be required for this volunteering role as it involves working with children.
- **Two references will always be taken.**
- The first occasion of volunteering will be in an observational role only.

Task start date: ongoing from April 2019

Task review date: ongoing

Task end date: October 2019
