

Task Description for Marine Awareness Helpers

Part-time seasonal volunteer at Wembury Marine Centre



What the task involves:

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

- Assisting school groups with a guided tour of the rockpools at Wembury and introducing them to the species found there
- Assisting with other schools activities including beach cleans, beach combing and/or other educational events if they arise, e.g. stream dipping
- Assisting with public events such as rockpool safaris and for those with previous experience, assisting with snorkel safaris.

It is important to note that these tasks involve working outdoors in all weather conditions and includes events on weekends and bank holidays.

Purpose:

The primary purpose of this position is to aid the Marine Awareness & Engagement Officer in providing an educational experience to school children and members of the public about the importance of marine habitats and conservation, 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
- Previous experience of snorkelling/diving essential in order to support snorkel safaris
- Happy to work in unfavourable weather conditions
- Enthusiasm for protecting the marine environment
- Flexibility with available hours
- Enjoys getting involved with wider beach and/or craft 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 Wembury Marine Centre (PL0 0HP), which is located at the entrance to the National Trust car park at Wembury Beach. Activities will take place on the beach and rockpools of Wembury, as well as inside/outside the Marine Centre and beach cleans around the SW coastpath towards Wembury Point.

When and how often:

Volunteer hours for this role are very flexible and are offered to suit the individual's needs. You will predominantly be involved with schools' activities during the week and public events at the weekends and holidays. School sessions typically last between 1 and 3 hours and public events usually 2-3 hours.

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Who is the supervisor:

There is one member of DWT staff based at Wembury Marine Centre - Coral Smith is the Marine Awareness & Engagement Officer. Each year, DWT also employs two seasonal Marine Engagement Assistants, one full-time and one part-time, to take the lead on events and delivering the seasonal programme.

Expenses/equipment available:

Travel expenses (agreed in advance) can be offered in line with Devon Wildlife Trust's Volunteer Policy. A parking permit is available 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. If you would like to volunteer for our snorkel safaris, you will need your own wetsuit and snorkel gear.

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 (safeguarding)
- Possibility of encountering species that could cause an allergic reaction
- Guidelines in place relating to Covid-19:
 - Rapid COVID test encouraged if you have symptoms on morning of session
 - Good personal hygiene at all times

What's in it for the volunteer?

You will have the opportunity to learn more about the amazing marine environment in and around Wembury Marine Conservation Area. You will gain skills in presenting this information to school children and members of the public, which can be very rewarding and great for your CV! You will be joining a wonderful team of like-minded individuals, providing a valuable part of the work being done by the Devon Wildlife Trust to protect marine wildlife now and for future generations. There is also the opportunity to socialise with other volunteers following events.

How to apply

Please send an email expressing your interest to info@wemburymarinecentre.org.

- **Two references will always be taken.**
- The first occasion of volunteering will be in an observational role only.

Task start date: ongoing from February 2023

Task review date: ongoing

Task end date: ongoing each season (volunteer can withdraw anytime)
