



Florida  
Oceanographic  
Society

# YOUTH VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

890 NE Ocean Boulevard \* Stuart \* Florida \* 34996  
[www.floridaoceanographic.org](http://www.floridaoceanographic.org) \* (772) 225-0505

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (must be 15 or older): \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## WORK/VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE, SKILLS AND INTEREST

Do you have volunteer experience? \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you volunteer, for how long, and what were your responsibilities? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What interests you in volunteering with Florida Oceanographic? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently employed? \_\_\_\_\_ Current Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies, skills, interests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any additional skills that you feel would benefit Florida Oceanographic? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please list any additional languages in which you are fluent: \_\_\_\_\_

## PLEASE LIST ONE OR MORE AREAS OF INTEREST

*(See attached sheet for a list of volunteer opportunities. For more information about any of the opportunities listed, please review the volunteer job descriptions posted at the admissions desk or on our website.)*

1) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_ 4) \_\_\_\_\_

## PLEASE CHECK THE TIME/TIMES YOU ARE AVAILABLE FOR EACH DAY

Daily Exhibit & Program Volunteer times are 9:45-1:15 or 1-5 Mon-Sat and 11:30-4 on Sundays.

Monday	<input type="checkbox"/> am <input type="checkbox"/> pm	Tuesday	<input type="checkbox"/> am <input type="checkbox"/> pm	Wednesday	<input type="checkbox"/> am <input type="checkbox"/> pm	Thursday	<input type="checkbox"/> am <input type="checkbox"/> pm
Friday	<input type="checkbox"/> am <input type="checkbox"/> pm	Saturday	<input type="checkbox"/> am <input type="checkbox"/> pm	Sunday	<input type="checkbox"/> 11:30-4:00	As Needed	<input type="checkbox"/> am <input type="checkbox"/> pm

**PREFERENCES IN VOLUNTEERING**

Prefer to spend most of my time:  walking  standing  sitting  no preference

Prefer to work:  indoors  outdoors  no preference

Prefer to work with other people:  children/youth  adults  no preference

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Have you ever been convicted of, had adjudication withheld, or pled guilty or nolo contendere (no contest) to a criminal offense (misdemeanor or felony)?  yes  no

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

In the future, background checks may become mandatory. Are you willing to comply with a request for a criminal background check?  yes  no

Do you have any physical and/or emotional conditions which may limit your ability to serve as a volunteer?  yes  no If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**VOLUNTEER REFERRAL METHOD**

How did you first hear about the volunteer program at Florida Oceanographic?

Current/Former volunteer (please print name) \_\_\_\_\_

Media (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

*I certify that the information contained in this application is complete and to the best of my knowledge. By signing below I understand that I am participating in a program which includes certain risks in outdoor activities. I voluntarily participate in this program and hold harmless the Florida Oceanographic Society from all responsibilities of personal injury. I hereby waive any and all claims against the Florida Oceanographic Society, it's directors and employees for any damage or injuries which I may incur during my participation in this program.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE ALLOW 2 WEEKS FOR US TO PROCESS YOUR APPLICATION. THANK YOU!**

**Registration information for Martin Volunteers**

Martin Volunteers, a program of United Way, receives hours from local agencies and reports volunteer hours to the federal government. To validate Florida Oceanographic volunteer hours reported to Martin Volunteers, the government mandates that volunteers also be registered with Martin Volunteers. Are you interested in registering with Martin Volunteers?  yes  no

# Volunteer Opportunities & Brief Description:

For more information about any of the opportunities listed, please review the volunteer job descriptions posted at the admissions desk or on our website.

## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

**Exhibit Guide:** Interpret exhibits and relay information to the public about our regional aquariums and touch tank inhabitants. Exhibit Guides are outgoing and enjoy working with children and families. Shifts are from 9:45-1:15 or 1:00-5:00 Mon-Sat and 11:30-4 on Sundays. A minimum of a 6 month commitment is necessary for this position along with the ability to work both indoors and outdoors. (Youth and Adult)

**Game Fish Lagoon Presenters:** First and foremost, your role at the Coastal Center is as an Exhibit Guide. Volunteers trained for the Game Fish Lagoon feeding conduct public programs and inform visitors about the local species of game fish, ethical angling practices, the economic impact of the fishing industry on our region and the importance of the Indian River Lagoon. (Youth and Adult)

**Ray Program Presenters:** First and foremost, your role at the Coastal Center is as an Exhibit Guide. Volunteers trained for the Ray Program conduct a brief presentation to audiences of all ages and assist visitors with the public feeding program. Groups can range in size from 2-200+ depending on the time of the year. (Youth and Adult)

**Trail Guide:** First and foremost, your role at the Coastal Center is as an Exhibit Guide. Volunteers are specially trained to lead tours through our hardwood hammocks and mangrove swamps. We have 2 nature trail loops, a 1 mile loop that takes visitors down to the Indian River Lagoon and a 1/3 mile I-Spy loop trail for those who are not able to walk as far. Trail Guides will be versed in either trail and will share with our visitors interesting facts about our local flora and fauna while stressing the importance of the of Florida's coastal ecosystems. (Youth and Adult)

**School Group Guides:** Volunteers work with school groups that vary in age from pre-school students through high school. Volunteers should be able to conduct each of the programs and have group management abilities. Teaching experience preferred.

**Seining/Snorkeling Guides:** Volunteers must be proficient swimmers and comfortable wading and swimming in potentially turbulent water. The program is led by an education staff member and volunteers are available to help visitors with necessary skills. (Youth and Adult)

**Other Educational Programming:** Other opportunities exist for volunteer involvement with special programs like Home School Days, Sea Squirts, Summer Camp and school programs. Volunteers interested in leading these programs will need to speak directly to our Education Staff about available opportunities. (Youth and Adult)

## VISITOR CENTER

**Admissions Attendant:** Welcome visitors and groups, accept admission fees and provide an overview of our exhibits. (Adult only)

**Gift Shop Attendant:** Assist customers with purchases and help maintain and restock displays. (Adult only)

**Greeters:** Assist at the admissions desk during busy times and welcome visitors into the Coastal Center. Greeters can also provide information about the exhibits and programs and help to maintain the Coastal Center during peak season. (Adult only)

## **RESEARCH DEPARTMENT**

**Water Quality Testers:** Perform weekly water testing along key points of the St. Lucie River, the Indian River Lagoon and around the inlet. Volunteers test for dissolved oxygen, visibility, salinity, temperature and pH. (Youth and Adult)

**Oyster Gardeners:** If you live on the St. Lucie River, you can help FOS raise oysters at your dock. Gardeners keep an eye on their oysters and perform weekly water quality tests. (Youth and Adult)

**Dive Team:** Florida Oceanographic has 2 dive teams. The Palm Beach County Reef Research Team and the Martin County Reef Research Dive work on various grant funded projects in their respective regions. (Adult only)

**Other Research Opportunities:** In addition to the above opportunities, the research department needs volunteers who are able to work outdoors on various projects from pressure washing and repairing oyster cages to field work. (Youth and Adult)

## **OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT**

**Craftsman / Tradesman:** Share your unique talents to help maintain and improve our exhibits and facility. If you have a background in plumbing, carpentry, electrical or engineering we can benefit from your help. (Adult only)

**Exotic Plant Removal / Trail Maintenance:** Volunteers help keep our native vegetation healthy by removing unwanted exotic invasive plants and trees. Regular maintenance of the trees and shrubbery on the trail is needed on an ongoing basis. (Regular opportunity for Adults, erratic opportunity for youths)

**Adopt-A-Highways / Beach Clean-ups:** Florida Oceanographic is in charge of cleaning up a portion of the highway in front of the Center 4 times per year. We also participate as a group in beach clean-ups that are organized by Keep Martin Beautiful. (Youth, Adult & Family)

## **OTHER AREAS OF INVOLVEMENT**

**Office Assistant / Mailings:** An extra pair of hands is always needed to help with mailings and various projects or even to answer the phone at the reception desk.

**Special Events:** This is a great way to help if you have a limited amount of time. Functions are held throughout the year which requires additional volunteer support. Fun is had by all.

**Community Events:** Volunteers promote Florida Oceanographic at various events held throughout the county. Ex// fishing tournaments, beach clean-up events, Pineapple Festival, VNA Air Show and other events held throughout the year. Volunteers are our primary representatives at these functions and are key to community exposure.