Position Title: Marine Science Educator/Aquarist

Company/Organization: Pennington Marine Science Center owned and operated by the Western Los Angeles County Council, Scouts BSA

Location: Camp Emerald Bay, Santa Catalina Island, CA

Summer Positions: June 2 – August 17, 2024
Application deadline: March 11, 2024
Number of Positions: 4

Pay: weekly salary $542.64; deductions of $218.59/week for housing & food

Position Summary:

The Marine Science Educator/Aquarist will report to the Director of the Pennington Marine Science Center and work closely with the Senior Aquarist. Employees primarily teach three different marine science classes to scouts aged 11-17 in the Boy Scouts of America. They also learn about and assist in the husbandry of temperate marine fish and invertebrates, maintain the appearance of exhibits, monitor life support systems, perform exhibit interpretation, as well as participate in some accessions of specimens for the collection. We try to conduct multiple dives a week, time permitting. Employees will also receive training on animal husbandry, life support systems, plumbing, ROV operation, zoonosis, along with many other lessons geared towards career development. The skills acquired during this seasonal position prove to be invaluable in a number of careers including public aquariums, science education, research, scientific diving, and aquaculture. Like other camp counselors onsite, aquarium employees are expected to participate in camp-wide duties such as daily flag ceremonies, serving meals in the dining hall, attendance and participation in campfire skits and other camp duties as assigned. Staff uniforms are BSA Scouting-specific including the traditional Class A shirt, green shorts and socks.

Summary of Position and Responsibilities:

- The position is a temporary 3 month position beginning June 2nd and going to August 17th. Only candidates who are able to reside onsite for this time period will be considered.
- Reports to the Director of the Pennington Marine Science Center and may also work under the Senior Aquarist.
- Responsibilities:
  - Teaching Marine Science Education classes (lesson plans and training will be provided)
    - Oceanography Merit Badge
    - ROV
    - BSA Aquarist
  - Animal Husbandry of temperate marine fish and invertebrates which includes diet preparation and feeding
  - Maintenance of exhibits
  - Water quality monitoring and testing
  - Collection of specimens on SCUBA, with hook and line, and/or other methods
  - Life support system monitoring and maintenance
  - Record keeping
  - Public engagement and the facilitation of group tours
  - Other duties as assigned:
    - Flag ceremonies in Class A uniform
- Serving meals to campers in the Dining Hall 4 times a week
- Participation in skits at campfires
- Unloading shipments
- Campsite hosting

**Qualifications:**

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed are representative of the knowledge, skills, and/or abilities required.

Must have authorization to work in the US.

- **Education and/or Experience**
  - Experience teaching science or outdoor education
  - BS/BA in Marine Biology, Biology, Zoology, Environmental Science, Education or other related discipline or be working towards the aforementioned degrees at an accredited 4 year university
  - Professional animal husbandry experience in an aquarium or zoo is a plus

- **Knowledge, Skills and Abilities**
  - Desire & ability to work with kids ages 12-18
  - Advanced SCUBA certification from a nationally recognized agency such as PADI, SSI or NAUI (Rescue certification or higher preferred)
  - ReefCheck or AAUS scientific diver certification is a plus
  - Ability to obtain First Aid, CPR, and lifeguard certifications
  - Ability to work effectively with co-workers, maintain positive relationships, and demonstrate professionalism
  - Ability to speak effectively to groups or individuals
  - Ability to climb up and down stairs
  - Ability to lift 50 lbs
  - Ability to read and interpret documents i.e. safety rules, operating and maintenance instructions, and procedure manuals
  - Strong organizational skills
  - Strong problem-solving skills to analyze issues and find effective solutions
  - Ability to prioritize tasks and work efficiently under pressure
  - Flexibility and adaptability to handle changes in schedules or responsibilities
  - Critical thinking and decision-making abilities to handle complex situations

**Physical Demands & Work Environment:**

The physical demands and work environment described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is frequently required to stand, sit, walk, reach, and talk or hear. Must be able to perform repetitive motions 75% of the time. Must be able to lift 50 lbs.

**Pay Rate:**

$324 a week after deductions (room and board are provided for the duration of the position). Taxes will also be deducted based on your W4. A Catalina Express ticket will be provided. Pay rate subject to change with minimum wage increases. Interns may be eligible to apply for a $1,000 scholarship that can be used to support their education.
Perks of the job:

Working at Camp Emerald Bay has its perks! Besides living on beautiful, sunny Catalina Island, in your free time, you are able to borrow mountain bikes, make pottery/leatherwork, shoot archery/shotguns/rifles, swim, snorkel, hike, and borrow any of our many different kinds of small boats (rowboats, kayaks, canoes, stand-up paddleboards, mini motorboats, 15ft sailboats). At your own expense, you may sign up for a convenient staff SCUBA class to get your open water, advanced, rescue or other dive certifications in some popular kelp forest dive sites!

About the Pennington Marine Science Center:

The Pennington Marine Science Center is home to our 6,000 gallon aquarium full of local marine fish and invertebrates, collected by the Director/Curator, Senior Aquarist, and Aquarists over the spring, summer, and fall. This aquarium showcases the local marine life, acts as teaching aids, and inspires thousands of visitors every year.

The mission of the Pennington Marine Science Center (PMSC) is to provide education, promote exploration and inspire conservation of marine ecosystems, emphasizing Catalina Island. The Center supports this mission by using its exhibits, classrooms and proximity to the ocean to teach the Oceanography Merit Badge (OMB), BSA Aquarist (BSAA), and ROV classes. These courses are taught by the marine educators and teach fundamental concepts of oceanography, how to set up and care for an aquarium, conservation and stewardship of the ocean, and various other topics.

About Camp Emerald Bay:

The Pennington Marine Science Center is owned and operated by the Western Los Angeles County Council of the Boy Scouts of America and is located at Camp Emerald Bay on Catalina Island. The camp’s mission is to build good people through outdoor education so that they will develop values, acquire leadership skills, and become stewards of our world. Located on the Western end of Catalina Island, camp is remote, with limited access to the towns of Two Harbors and Avalon. Two Harbors is 7 miles away (35 min drive) and Avalon is 26 miles away (1.5 hour drive).

The summer is the camp’s busiest time of the year when we may have as many as 700 scouts and scout leaders staying in camp during a week. As you can imagine, that’s a lot of people and a lot of work. As a result, it means that as staff we may work long days, perhaps from 8 am to 8 pm. The work week runs from Sunday morning to Saturday morning, typically. There are eight sessions a day with four before lunch and four after. Each one lasts approximately 1 hour with a 20 minute break between sessions. These morning sessions are where PMSC instructors teach their courses and the afternoon sessions are designated for husbandry duties, professional development and mentorship topics, and SCUBA diving for PMSC staff.

As members of the Boy Scouts of America, we have a uniform requirement that follows Scouting guidelines:

- Staff T-shirts
- Green shorts
- Red shorts on the waterfront
- Red one piece swimsuit for female staff
- Class A collared shirts at evening colors
- White knee high socks with three red bands

Other required activities include flag ceremonies, participation in skits at weekly campfires, serving meals in the dining hall and the whole staff jumping in the ocean. Staff members live in wooden cabins that have eight bunks with a storage locker and drawer for each occupant. Cabins are organized by gender and age (for example, over 18 females live with over 18 females and under 18 females live with under 18 females). There are separate restroom and shower facilities for genders that are separate from campers.
Application Instructions:
Please submit the following documents in PDF format to penningtonmsc@gmail.com following the naming convention listed in parenthesis for each document.

- Cover letter (Su2024_LastName_FirstName_CoverLetter.pdf)
- Resume (Su2024_LastName_FirstName_Resume.pdf)
- Unofficial transcript (Su2024_LastName_FirstName_Transcript.pdf)
- Contact information for three professional references (Su2024_LastName_FirstName_References.pdf).
  - Include name, title, phone number, and email address for every reference.
  - Letters of recommendation are not required to apply.

If your application is incomplete, you will not be considered for the position.

Please direct questions regarding the position to:
Cindy Belkowiche
Director/Curator, Pennington Marine Science Center
penningtonmsc@gmail.com
310-510-1795 x36

@ebPMSC   @emeraldbaypmsc