



We are delighted you are interested in serving as a volunteer with the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center. The youth volunteer positions we offer are ideal for enthusiastic, outgoing individuals with a passion for learning and an interest in marine biology and the environment. If you bring your love of the ocean, a willingness to learn and provide friendly service, in return we will help you develop your communication, customer service and leadership skills. You will also gain knowledge about marine science and conservation.

A Virginia Aquarium youth volunteer application follows. Since our selection process begins the moment you submit your application packet be sure to read and carefully follow the instructions. Every packet is reviewed very closely.

The Application

- Summer 2020 youth applications are accepted starting Sunday, September 1, 2019 until 3:00 P.M. on Friday, February 28, 2020. ***Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.***
- Your application form must be typed or printed legibly with blue or black ink. No pencil please.
- Communication is done primarily via email. Please provide a valid email address on your application.
- Application packets submitted via email MUST be a PDF. ***Photographed applications will not be considered.***
- Incomplete application packets will not be considered.

Reference Letters

- Two letters of recommendation are required. The letters must be attached to the application in a signed, sealed envelope when the application packet is submitted. For candidates submitting applications via email or fax, direct those writing letters on your behalf to email their recommendation to ReferencesAqua@VirginiaAquarium.com. Instruct them to type *Reference for "Your First and Last Name"* in the subject line.
- Recommendations should not be a person related to you. We recommend that you select someone such as a teacher, coach, former/current volunteer supervisor, scout leader, pastor, etc.

Visit <https://www.virginiaaquarium.com/about-us/Pages/youth-volunteer-opportunities.aspx> and click on individual volunteer positions for a complete review of the position requirements, interview date(s), and training date(s). Detailed interview instructions will be emailed no later than Wednesday March 4, 2020 to candidates who submit a complete application packet.

Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center Youth Volunteer Application

717 General Booth Boulevard
Virginia Beach, VA 23451
Phone: 757.385.0274
Fax: 757.385.0228

Email: Aquavols@VirginiaAquarium.com

Pease type or print legibly with blue or black ink. Do not use a pencil.

Today's Date: _____

Personal Information

Answer the following questions. For those that do not apply, enter n/a.

Last Name _____ First _____ Middle _____

Nickname _____ Birth Date ____/____/____ Shirt Size _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

School Name _____ Grade _____

Expected High School Graduation Date (Year) _____

Area of Interest

Which volunteer position interest you? **Select only one.**

_____ **Aquarium Store Assistant** - Volunteer assists store personnel with daily duties such as stocking, straightening merchandise, minor cleaning and customer service. Candidates must be at least 13 years old when application is submitted and have good communication skills. Must have the ability to interact with guests and staff in a friendly, outgoing manner and comfortable standing for a four hour shift. This position requires a weekly 4 or 5 hour shift. This is a summer position with the option to volunteer during the school year.

_____ **Children Activities Helper** - Volunteer assists Aquarium education staff with children's birthday parties and sea camps. For birthday parties, this includes helping with set-up and cleanup, greeting guests and leading activities with young party guests. During sea camps volunteer will aid instructors as needed. Candidates must be at least 15 years old with good communication skills. Must be comfortable working with children of varying ages and have a high energy level. An interest in marine science and experience working with children preferred. This position requires a minimum of 25 hours between mid-June and August. This is a summer position with the option to volunteer with birthday parties during the school year.

_____ **Family Gallery Docent** – This is an opportunity for family members to volunteer together at the Aquarium. As a team, volunteers will share information about the Aquarium's exhibits and Virginia's marine environment with guests. Candidates must be at least 13 years old, able to take direction, work within a team and independently. Must also have good communication skills, comfortable speaking before groups of people and able to stand for an extended period of time. Applicants must also be reliable and punctual. This position requires a minimum of one 4½ hour shift a week for at least nine weeks between mid-June and August. Youth applicants must be paired with a parent or guardian. Parent's application must be attached when youth application is submitted. This is a summer position with the option to volunteer during the school year.

Area of Interest Continued

Remember, select only one.

_____ **Gallery Docent** - Volunteer shares information about the Aquarium's exhibits and Virginia's marine environment with guests. Candidates must be at least 14 years old, able to take direction, work within a team and independently. Must also have good communication skills, comfortable speaking before groups of people and able to stand for an extended period of time. Applicant must also be reliable and punctual. This position requires a minimum of one 4½ hour shift a week. Volunteer service as a Touch Pool Exhibit Guide is a prerequisite. This is a summer position with the option to volunteer during the school year. This is also a great volunteer opportunity for homeschooled teens.

_____ **Marsh Ambassador** - Volunteer greets and leads aquarium guests in educational activities and tours along the marsh overlook and nature trail. Candidates must be at least 13 years old, personable, outgoing, comfortable interacting with large groups and able to take direction. An interest in marine science is a plus. This position requires a minimum of one 3¾ hour shift a week on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday. Volunteer must be available at least nine weeks between June and August. This is a summer only position.

_____ **Ticket Taking Assistant** - Volunteer greets and directs guests, answer visitor questions and share details about special programs and experiences. Candidates must be at least 13 years old at the time his or her application is submitted. Applicant should be friendly and patient with the ability to stand for an extended period of time and comfortable interacting with large crowds. This position requires a minimum of one four hour shift a week. Volunteer must be available at least nine weeks between June and August. This is a summer position with the option to volunteer during the school year.

_____ **Toddler Program Assistant** - Volunteer assists Toddler Program Coordinator with planning and presenting toddler events. Candidates must be at least 14 years old, out-going with have high energy and comfortable working with toddlers. Must also have a pleasant demeanor and able to take direction. Applicants with artistic and/or musical abilities a plus. An interest in marine science and experience working with children preferred. This position requires a minimum of one 4½ hour shift a week. Volunteer must be available at least nine weeks between June and August. This is a summer position with the option to volunteer during the school year. This is also a great volunteer opportunity for homeschooled teens.

_____ **Touch Pool Exhibit Guide** – Volunteer provides fun, engaging and educational experiences for Aquarium guests while sharing information about the animals in the Chesapeake Bay Aquarium and Rays touch pools. Candidates must be at least 14 years old, able to take direction, work within a team and independently. Must also have good communication skills, comfortable speaking before groups of people and able to stand for an extended period of time. Applicant must also be reliable and punctual. This position requires a minimum of one 4½ hour shift a week. This is a summer position with the option to volunteer during the school year.

_____ **Water Quality Lab Assistant** – Volunteer assists Water Quality Lab staff in performing a variety of routine water quality analyses and clean up. Candidates must be at least 16 years old and completed a high school chemistry course. Applicant must also have the ability to stand for at least 4 hours with minimal breaks, have great vision with or without glasses, excellent motor skills and be knowledgeable of safe laboratory operating practices. This position requires a minimum of one 4 hour shift a week. This is a summer only position.

General Information

Answer the following questions. For those that do not apply, enter n/a.

How did you hear about the Aquarium's volunteer program?

<input type="checkbox"/> Aquarium's Website	<input type="checkbox"/> Aquarium's Facebook	<input type="checkbox"/> Aquarium's Open House	<input type="checkbox"/> An Aquarium Volunteer
<input type="checkbox"/> School Career Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Guidance Counselor	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/> Internet _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Family/Friend	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

Why do you want to volunteer at the Aquarium? _____

Describe any previous volunteer experience: _____

List community and school activities you are involved with. Give a description of your duties _____

Share how you expect to benefit from your experience as an Aquarium volunteer. _____

Emergency Contact

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ (Home Cell Work) Relation _____

Parental Consent

I support my son's/ daughter's (*please select one*) volunteer commitment to the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center. I am aware that if selected, he/she will assume the responsibility of volunteering for the required time and I will ensure that he/she is on time and present for the assignment or make sure his/her supervisor is notified of possible tardiness and absences. I also agree to make certain my son/daughter attends all required training.

I do hereby assume the risks of possible accidental physical injuries that my child may suffer while participating as a youth volunteer and release the City of Virginia Beach, its employees, agents, officers, directors and other volunteers from any and all claims, actions, liability or cause of action, whatsoever on account of bodily and/or personal injury or other damages.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

The Next Step Return your completed application to Attn: Volunteer Resources Office – Youth Volunteer Applicant – don't forget your three letters of recommendation. All applications are reviewed and if selected for further consideration, you will be contacted for an interview. Please note that incomplete application packets are not considered.