



Smithsonian Marine Station at Fort Pierce

## Marine Education Internship in Southeast Florida

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Smithsonian Marine Ecosystems Exhibit in Fort Pierce, Florida is located on the Indian River Lagoon (IRL), the most diverse estuary in the U.S., and less than one mile from the Atlantic Ocean. This unique educational facility provides a window into these underwater worlds, offering a variety of hands-on experiences to daily visitors, as well as programing opportunities. Our focus is on displaying ecosystems as complex communities of organisms interacting in their environments. The six main exhibits are models of local Florida ecosystems (seagrass bed, mangrove forest, coral reef, etc) and vary in size from 500 to 3000 gallons. We also have a touch tank and a variety of smaller displays.

With the help of our dynamic displays we strive to provide the public with a better understanding of the fragile marine ecosystems of the IRL and surrounding area and the impact humans are having on these fragile ecosystems. The responsibilities of the Education Intern are to **interpret to visitors** in the gallery and at the touch tank, **lead educational programs** for school and community groups, assist with **special events**, **lead summer camp** for ages 6-14 and **create educational displays**. The education intern may also assist aquarium husbandry staff with routine duties, such as tank monitoring, feedings and specimen collection, as needed. Additional objectives can be developed with **education staff based on intern's personal interests, strengths and/or experience**. Learning outcomes include an understanding of various Florida marine and estuarine ecosystems, best practices in informal education settings and training in animal husbandry.

### QUALIFICATIONS

Experience working in an informal education setting (preferred) and/or coursework in science education, a demonstrated ability in effectively communicating with others, a strong interest in marine science, and a willingness/ability to maintain a flexible schedule, including weekends.

### TIMETABLE

12-weeks, full-time (mid-May to mid-August)

### APPLICATION PROCESS

Please submit a cover letter and current resume (package limited to **3 pages**) to Cristin Ryan at [ryanc@si.edu](mailto:ryanc@si.edu) no later than **Friday, February 28, 2014**.

### AWARD PACKAGE

\$4200

### CONTACT

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