

The Florida Aquarium Education Department is very excited to welcome a new group of Junior Educators for Summer 2017. We are looking for responsible high school students, ages 14 - 17, who are interested in volunteering for the duration of the summer term, May 30<sup>th</sup> – August 4<sup>th</sup>. This includes assisting with AquaCamps and guest interaction on the Gallery pathway. *See position description below.*

Experience with children ages 3 to 9 and public speaking is a plus, but is not required. Junior Educators will need to commit to the onsite training days listed below, and to working two weekdays per week during the summer; one day with AquaCamps and one day on the Gallery pathway. Please keep in mind that this is a highly competitive program. Only students that exhibit the desire to serve with us and commit to the strict schedule will be accepted into this program. The onsite trainings are on:

- Saturday, April 22, 2017, from 1:00pm – 3:00pm – Required Attendance, All Junior Educators
- Saturday, May 6, 2017, from 8:30am – 3:30 pm – Required Attendance, Camp All-Staff Meeting
- Saturday, May 20, 2017, from 1:00pm – 3:00pm – Required Attendance, All Junior Educators

To apply for the program, please complete and return the attached application to The Florida Aquarium no later than March 1, 2017. Applications will be reviewed as they are received and candidates contacted. Once accepted, there is a \$30 materials fee to cover the cost of the uniform.

### **Junior Educator Volunteer Position Description**

The program is designed to give each participant an overview of the Education Department at The Florida Aquarium. At the conclusion of this summer program, our Junior Educators will have:

- shared our conservation message with guests through engaging bio-fact demonstrations
- delivered extraordinary customer service to our guests and campers
- enthusiastically shared their passion for science with our summer campers age 3-9

Each Junior Educator will commit to a minimum of two (2) days of service per week for 10 weeks (May 30 – August 4, 2017) over the summer. Your schedule will be determined prior to the summer to allow for scheduling around this commitment. *Accommodations may be made for vacations or prior commitments within reason and with sufficient notice.*

One day per week during the summer commitment, each participant will work with the camp program. They will be assigned to work alongside our Camp Counselors for AquaTots (3-4 year olds), AquaKids (5-6 year olds), grade K-1 campers or grade 2-3 campers. The camp day will be from 7:30am – 4:00pm or 9:00am – 5:30pm; further details will be discussed during training.

On the other day of the week during the summer commitment, each participant will work on the exhibit pathway with our Exhibit Educators. They will be directly interacting with daily visitors, utilizing biofacts at the Education carts to teach guests about the natural environment, interpreting at different exhibits, and assisting at our touch tanks. The gallery day will be from 9:00am-5:00pm.

Keep in mind that this volunteer position is without compensation and will require a deep commitment from both student and parent. The schedule must be kept and, while accommodations may be made for planned vacations, we count on our volunteers each day.

*\*\*\*All Junior Educators will need to pass a drug screening and be fingerprinted. All information will be given to the accepted Junior Educators. Fees will be reimbursed to those who complete their fingerprinting at the requested facility.\*\*\**

*If you, student or parent, have questions about the Junior Educator program please contact the Education Volunteer Coordinator, Rebecca Hughes, at [rhughes@flaquarium.org](mailto:rhughes@flaquarium.org) or by telephone at 813-367-4075.*

**To Apply**

Please email or fax your application, your essay (described below), and the attached teacher recommendation form to:

Rebecca Hughes

Email: [rhughes@flaquarium.org](mailto:rhughes@flaquarium.org)

Phone and Fax: (813) 367-4075

**Student Application Form (ALL fields are required)**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: (include city) \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Point Average: \_\_\_\_\_ Recommending Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Agreement**

I have read the details and understand the position description for The Florida Aquarium's 2017 Junior Educator program. I give my child permission to be a Junior Educator volunteer and I accept full responsibility for my child's participation in this program. Additionally, I give permission for the Aquarium to administer emergency medical procedures in the event I cannot be reached.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Student Agreement**

I understand that attendance is extremely important. I commit to attending the All-Staff Camp Meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup> and to at least one other required training session. I must contact my supervisor to make up any missed training topics. I will commit to two volunteer days per week during the summer. I will work with my supervisor to set up a schedule that accommodates my availability and the needs of The Florida Aquarium's Education Department.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Essay**

Along with a completed application, please include/attach an essay (750 words or less) telling us a little about yourself and why you are interested in participating in our Junior Educator program. Please print clearly (or type).

**Teacher Recommendation Form**

Attention Students: Please fill out this top form for your teacher. Please ask the teacher to fill out the recommendation portion and either return to you to submit with your application or have them fax or email the recommendation to:

Rebecca Hughes: rhughes@flaquarium.org or 813-367-4075

***To be completed by student***

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Point Average: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

***To be completed by teacher***

Using a scale of 1 to 5 where 1=strongly disagree and 5=strongly agree; please rate this student on the following criteria:

	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Neutral 3	Agree 4	Strongly Agree 5
Completes class assignments on time.					
Would be a good role model for children ages 3 to 9.					
Shows interest in learning to improve his/her public speaking skills.					
Is on time to class.					
Is willing to help others and work in a team environment.					
Overall, I would recommend this student for the Junior Educator Program.					

Is there anything else that you would like us to know about this student?

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