

Fort Walton Beach, FL

Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park, Marine Animal Training Internship

If you are considering a career in the field of marine mammal care and training, the Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park internship program is an excellent way to start! You will receive valuable experience that will assist you in achieving your future goals. Their volunteer-based internship program is designed for college students and recent graduates who are interested in pursuing a career working with marine mammals. Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park cares for a variety of marine animals and provides a unique and diverse internship experience. Their facility provides daily dolphin and sea lion shows, as well as educational presentations for a variety of species. These presentations aim to inspire conservation for not only the animals under their care, but also their ocean counterparts. In addition, they hold up-close and interactive guest programs with all animals in their department. As an intern, you will be able to observe training sessions and possibly practice operant conditioning techniques with Atlantic bottlenose dolphins, California sea lions, harbor seals, Asian small-clawed otters, African black-footed penguins, and several species of tropical birds.

Interns will be responsible for diet preparation, habitat cleaning, observations of animal behavior, providing daily educational presentations on microphone, assisting with veterinary procedures, recording husbandry data, maintaining show areas, practicing effective communication among staff members, implementing excellent customer service, and other duties as assigned alongside their full-time animal training staff. Interns will also have the opportunity to learn operant conditioning techniques with an emphasis on positive reinforcement training through a trainer lecture series.

Requirements:

- Must have completed at least one year of undergraduate schooling
- Commitment of 5 days a week (40 hrs) for a 3-month period
- Ability to work varied shifts – weekends/holidays/overnights
- Ability to work in all weather conditions in outside environment
- Ability to lift and carry 50 pounds
- Strong communication skills
- Ability to work well in a team environment
- Good public speaking skills
- Good swimming ability
- Open Water SCUBA certification preferred, not required

Session Dates and Application Deadlines

Summer (May – August) Deadline: February 15th

Fall (August – November) Deadline: June 15th

Spring (February – May) Deadline: December 15th

Application Procedures

If you are interested in applying, you must submit the following:

- Current resume
- Completed job application (available for download on their website)
- College transcripts (official or un-official)
- Provide a one-page essay answering one of the following questions:

1. There are varying views on housing animals in human care. Please discuss the pros and cons and explain your stand on the issue.

OR

2. Working with marine animals can be very rewarding yet also demanding and competitive. Please discuss what you believe to be the rewards and challenges of working in this field as well as the strengths you possess to help you succeed.

Website:

<http://gulfarium.com/traininginternship>

Both electronic and hard-copy applications are accepted.

Applications can be mailed to:

Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park
Attention: Marine Mammal Intern Coordinator
1010 Miracle Strip Parkway SE
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

OR

Applications can be scanned and emailed to:

intern@gulfarium.com