

Contract Educator
Smithsonian Marine Ecosystems Exhibit
Smithsonian Marine Station
31 January 2023

Location: The Smithsonian Marine Ecosystems Exhibit (SMEE) at the St. Lucie County Aquarium, 420 Seaway Drive, Fort Pierce, Florida, serves as the outreach branch of the nearby Smithsonian Marine Station (SMS).

Duration: Six month contract/full-time (40 hrs/week) with possibility of extension.

Description: This unique educational facility offers visitors an up-close look at the underwater world of the Indian River Lagoon and east coast of Florida. Aquarium staff are committed to enlightening and inspiring visitors on the diversity and importance of marine ecosystems using the Exhibit's dynamic, live aquarium displays and engaging educational content to provide the public with a better understanding of these fragile systems and the impact humans are having on them. Featured marine habitats include, a 2,500 gallon Atlantic coral reef, a deep-water coral reef, a red mangrove forest and a seagrass bed. The Aquarium also features a local species touch tank, constantly changing interactives, microscope themed exhibits and small aquarium displays.

Qualifications:

- Demonstrated experience working in informal education and/or coursework in science education.
- Basic knowledge of concepts of marine biology.
- Outstanding organizational skills and demonstrated ability to follow existing procedures and programs.
- Ability to engage diverse audiences, including students, senior citizens, scientists, educators, volunteers, and SMS staff.
- Working knowledge of computer software used for word processing and managing photographs and graphics.
- Ability to coordinate and schedule education programs and work as part of a team.
- A familiarity with social media platforms, namely Instagram and Facebook.
- Proof of COVID 19 vaccination

Responsibilities:

- Interprets the Exhibit to a broad range of visitors, including school and senior citizens groups, groups with special needs and families.
- Follows existing protocols to train the Exhibit's public-side volunteers and education interns.
- Schedules and implements existing on-site educational programs and organizing special events and programs, as required.
- Develops interpretive tools and signage for the Exhibit, as required.
- Designs and produces printed media for press releases, newsletters, and online social media content with approval from Exhibit manager.
- Participates in staff meetings to provide updates and keep informed of the Smithsonian Marine Station's staff, research projects, and activities.
- Perform basic aquarium husbandry duties to ensure the health and well-being of the Exhibit's inhabitants, as needed during husbandry staff shortages.

To apply, send cover letter, CV and three references to Bill Hoffman (hoffman@si.edu) by February 13, 2023.