



CBL Visitor Center Volunteers Needed

The Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (CBL) Visitor Center provides guests with the opportunity to learn about cutting-edge research being pioneered by CBL's team of faculty and student scientists right here on Solomons Island. CBL's dedicated Visitor Center docents serve a vital role in explaining our research to the general public and helping guests understand the importance of the work we do. We would love to have you join the team!

Responsibilities

Volunteer docents independently run the CBL Visitor Center! They are responsible for:

- Opening and closing the Visitor Center
- Educating guests about CBL and its associated research, education, and outreach efforts
- Interpreting exhibits for visitors
- Providing general information about Solomons Island to guests
- Playing a welcome video for guests
- Managing and recording sales of Visitor Center merchandise
- Maintaining adequate supply of handout materials on display
- Staffing exhibits at community events

Benefits

In addition to the satisfaction and pride we hope you feel for volunteering with us, you will have the opportunity to:

- LEARN about scientific innovations from renown researchers
- EDUCATE others by sharing the knowledge you have gained
- SERVE your community and feel a sense of achievement for your contribution
- RECEIVE invitations to special events, including an annual Appreciation Luncheon
- MEET new friends who share your passion for science and the environment
- DISCOVER new interests and hobbies
- EARN a CBL volunteer polo shirt & permanent name tag by volunteering 24 hours



Qualifications

To be a successful Visitor Center Docent, you must be:

- Interested in the Chesapeake Bay, scientific research, and/or public education
- Willing to work alone or in small groups
- Outgoing, polite, and enjoy interacting with people
- Individuals between 16-18 years of age may only volunteer on weekdays when the Outreach Coordinator is available to provide supervision.

Commitment

All volunteers must commit to working a minimum of two four-hour shifts per month during the Visitor Center's open season. Visitor Center hours of operation vary seasonally:

- Calvert & St Mary's Spring Break 2016: Everyday from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.
- May through Memorial Day: Friday, Saturday, & Sunday - 9:30 am to 4:30 pm
- Memorial Day to Labor Day: Wednesday through Sunday - 9:30 am to 4:30 pm
- Labor Day through November: Friday, Saturday, & Sunday - 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.
- December: Special hours during the Solomons Island Christmas Walk.

Training

Volunteers must attend a minimum of three Science for Citizens seminars, through which they will gain exposure to the range of research projects being conducted by CBL faculty and become more familiar with Chesapeake Bay ecology. Science for Citizens seminars may be viewed online for volunteers recruited during the summer months. All new volunteers must attend a Training Session with the Outreach Coordinator and participate in one campus tour. Prior to working shifts alone, new volunteers will "shadow" a veteran volunteer during one 4-hour shift. Returning volunteers participate in an abbreviated Visitor Center Refresher Course each year.



Contact Sarah Brzezinski for an application • (410)326-7460 • brzezins@umces.edu



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