



New England Aquarium

Field Stranding Response Volunteers Needed

The New England Aquarium Marine Animal Response Team responds to reports of live and dead stranded seals, dolphins, whales and sea turtles throughout the Massachusetts and New Hampshire coasts. The Aquarium relies on this network of trained volunteers to be first responders. Volunteers act as the “eyes and ears” on the beach so that the Aquarium’s rescue biologists and veterinarians can make decisions on the best course of action. A typical response includes traveling to the stranding site and identifying the species and location of any stranded animals. Volunteers then conduct health assessments of live animals to determine if they are injured, sick or in good health. With dead animals, they take measurements and determine the animal’s gender. Volunteers then take and transmit photos and information about stranded animals to the Aquarium as soon as possible. Volunteers also establish and maintain perimeters around stranding sites and answer questions from the public. This is an on call position and applicants must be at least 18 years old, have access to a car, have a digital camera, and be able to remain calm under pressure and report objectively to the Aquarium biologists.

Applications must be submitted by May 6, 2011. If selected, Aquarium staff will then interview prospective volunteers. New volunteers will need to be available for full day training on Martha’s Vineyard on Saturday, June 4, 2011.

To apply on-line, please visit the aquarium’s website at:

http://www.neaq.org/get_involved/volunteering_and_internships/volunteering/volunteer_application.php