

AquaTeen Program

*An exciting way for teens, age 14 to 17,
to explore a world of opportunities in zoo and aquarium sciences.*

The Texas State Aquarium (TSA) is seeking positive, responsible, enthusiastic students who have an interest in learning about marine animals and habitats, while interacting with TSA guests.

The AquaTeen Program is a year-round program for teens interested in volunteering at the Aquarium. The program will give the teens a chance to work in different areas of the aquarium. They will not only receive a broad exposure to a variety of careers but will also be taking an active role in their community. The skills and work ethic developed apply to any other work environment. The program offers a unique opportunity to have fun while learning at the Texas State Aquarium.

First Year AquaTeen Opportunities:

- **Guest Services** – Greet and open doors for guests, serve as TSA mascot, complete guest surveys, and act as directional guides and sources of information for guests.
- **Splash Park** – Monitor the Splash Park (along with a staff member) during operating hours.
- **SeaCamp** – Assist SeaCamp counselors with daily projects, and act as an extra set of eyes and ears.
- **SeaSquirts** – Assist SeaSquirt counselors with daily projects and act as an extra set of eyes and ears. AquaTeens will help guide the children through the Aquarium and with various other activities.
- **Fundraising** – Work airbrush tattoo machine, games, and arts & crafts to support various aspects of the volunteer department.
- **Recycling** – Assist with weekly recycling at the aquarium and at scheduled Beach Clean Ups.
- **Exhibit Guide** – Learn about the habitats and animals at the Aquarium; assist visitors and answer questions about the exhibits.
- **Volunteer Exchanges & Field Trips** – Attend many different field trips with TSA staff members! (i.e., educational experience aboard a research vessel, visiting other zoos and aquariums)

The following positions are for returning AquaTeens only. These positions require previous knowledge, training, and experience at the Aquarium.

Second Year and Beyond Opportunities (in addition to above):

- **Fish/Herpetology** – Help Aquarists with the care and maintenance of some of the animals and exhibits.
- **Bird and Mammals** – Help trainers with enrichment and maintenance of the birds and mammals.
- **Wildlife Care** – Assist Rehab team with rehabilitated animals and maintenance at the Wildlife Rescue Center.
- **Marine Mammal and Bird / Mammal Interpretation Assistant** – Help keep Dolphin Bay and the Wild Flight Theater clean and ready for visitors, help seat visitors for the program and generally assist Interpretation staff at Dolphin Bay. (AquaTeens will not have any direct contact with the dolphins or the birds.)

Requirements for the AquaTeen Program:

- Be between the ages of 14-17 (Age 14 as of August 1, 2019)
- Make all required hours and shifts (required to remain active and be eligible for the next year)
 - 96 hours minimum in June, July and August volunteering with the AquaTeen program
 - Hours can be spaced out between month but must include service each summer month
 - 4 hours minimum per semester in Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 volunteering with the AquaTeen program
 - Volunteer at one beach clean-up during the 2020-2021 AquaTeen year
- Be a positive, responsible, enthusiastic student who is interested in learning about marine animals and habitats, while interacting with TSA guests.

Application Process: **(Application opens February 1, 2020 and closes March 31, 2020)**

- Complete Aquateen application through the Texas State Aquarium website. Included in the application must be a typed 100-word essay on “Why you should be selected for the AquaTeen program?” Also required, two typed letters of recommendations from a teacher or counselor. Home-schooled students may use a letter from someone other than a family member.
- Participate in an interview process; individual dates to be determined after review of applications
- If accepted, complete the required training and meet schedule requirements
- Program Dues (\$90.00) are to be paid at the Student & Parent Orientation Class.
- Scholarships are available, please contact Chelsea Stone at cstone@txstateaq.org for more info
- Feel free to contact Chelsea in the Human Resources Department at 361-653-2661 or at cstone@txstateaq.org with any questions.

2020 Application Date Requirements:

- To be considered for the AquaTeen program, application must be submitted no later than March 31, 2020. **Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

2020 Interview Period:

- April 2020
- After the application materials are reviewed, each student will be notified of their interview date and time.

2020 Selection Process:

- Students will be selected and notified of their acceptance into the program no later than April 30, 2020.
- A Parent or Guardian must attend a mandatory orientation meeting in late May to sign paperwork.
- Selected students are required to attend a mandatory two-day orientation in early June, from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm each day, two date options will be offered.