



Junior Counselor Program Information & Application

Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis until March 1, 2021

Are you interested in:

- Exploring the marine environment
- Learning how to present marine science to kids
- Gaining experience with marine science careers
- Sharing experiences in a multicultural environment
- Gaining leadership skills
- Working with youth entering grades 6 - 8

Description:

Project Oceanology's Ocean Camp utilizes marine science to develop leadership and life skills for youth ages 10 – 18. As a Junior Counselor, you will work with Project Oceanology Ocean Camp Instructors and Interns to help campers entering grades 6 - 8 explore the marine environment while learning about tolerance and understanding in a diverse community.

Participants in the Junior Counselor Program will **assist** Ocean Camp Instructors and Interns with the following duties: camper check-in, teaching, supervision during recreation and meal times, camp preparation, and clean-up. In addition, Junior Counselors serve as positive role models for younger campers, and help create a supportive camp community. Junior Counselors fulfill a key role in providing extra support to homesick campers and others who require more individualized attention. **Junior Counselors will never be expected to fulfill solo supervisory roles for other campers.**

Participants in the Junior Counselor Program will focus on personal growth and development while gaining leadership and life skills, as well as learning about environmental education curriculum development. As a Junior Counselor, you will:

- Develop and apply leadership skills
- Acquire and practice communication skills
- Understand and incorporate age appropriate learning and behavior techniques among campers
- Explore marine careers by working side-by-side with marine scientists

Junior Counselor Sessions:

The Junior Counselor Program will have two sessions during the summer of 2021: July 11-July 16, and July 18-23. Two applicants will be selected for each session (1 boys/1 girl). Selected applicants will be required to attend a training day in June 2021 (exact date/time TBD). Participants must attend all the days of their session.

Counselors will arrive at Project Oceanology on Sunday afternoon to assist with Camper check-in and leave Friday afternoon at the end of Ocean Camp.

Contact Information:

Questions about Ocean Camp and Project Oceanology's Junior Counselor Program can be directed to our Camp Directors:

Marissa Gustafson

Debbie Sayer

mgustafson@oceanology.org

dsayer@oceanology.org

**Qualifications/Eligibility Requirements:**

Successful applicants will have experience working with children. Applicants will have demonstrated maturity, energy, enthusiasm, effective communication skills, and an interest in the environment. Applicants must also:

- Be at least 15 years old as of June 15, 2021
- Have attended a previous session of Ocean Camp
- Commit to attending the entire week long session
- Be in good academic standing (GPA of 2.5 or above)
- Have a strong interest in marine science
- Have a strong interest in working with youth
- CPR and First Aid are recommended but not required

In order to be considered, the following application materials must be received (as soon as possible but not later than March 1, 2021):

1. Application cover and signature pages
2. Responses to Essay questions
3. Two completed Letters of Reference from the following individuals:
 - a. Teacher/Educator
 - b. Community member or adult mentor

The Letter of Reference Form is attached to the application packet. Completed Letters of Reference may be sent directly to Project Oceanology or included with the application in a sealed envelope, with the signature of the letter-writer across the flap. Relatives are not eligible to write Letters of Reference.

Interview Process:

Due to the large volume of applications we receive, only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted. Interviews will last approximately 15 minutes, and may take place in person or over the phone. Parents must be available during the interview process for information and dialogue.

Selection and approval process:

After interviews and due deliberation, the selection committee will select the participants. All candidates will be notified no later than April 1, 2021. Selected individuals will be able to attend the designated camp session free of charge provided all other camper registration requirements are met.

Completed applications may be sent by email or regular mail:

Email: admin@oceanology.org

Mail: Project Oceanology
Attn: Junior Counselor Program
1084 Shennecossett Rd.
Groton, CT 06340



Junior Counselor Application

Completed application packets must include the following:

1. Application cover and signature pages
2. Essay questions
3. Two Letters of Reference from the following individuals (see packet for more information)
 - a. Teacher/Educator
 - b. Community member or adult mentor

Personal Information:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Date of Birth _____ Age _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female

Grade Completed in Spring 2020 _____ GPA _____ School _____

Which camp session are you applying for? July 11-July 16 or July 18-23

First Choice: _____ Second Choice: _____

Letters of Reference:

Name of Teacher/Educator providing reference _____

Name of Community member or adult mentor providing reference _____

Required Signatures:

I have read and understand the "2021 Junior Counselor Program Information". If selected as a Junior Counselor, I understand that my continued appointment as a Junior Counselor is dependent upon making every reasonable attempt to follow through with all responsibilities and expectations associated with this appointment. Furthermore, I understand that in the event that I am unable to successfully fulfill my Junior Counselor responsibilities, that I may be relieved of all my responsibilities and dismissed from Ocean Camp.

Applicant _____ Date _____

Parent or Guardian _____ Date _____



Name:

Essay Questions: Please respond to the following questions using 12 point font, single spaced text (max: 300 words or ½ page). Make sure your name is included on each page.

1) Why are you interested in Project Oceanology's Junior Counselor Program?

2) What is your experience in working with children?



3) What is your experience with marine science?

4) What was the most important lesson you learned from your previous experience with Ocean Camp?



5) What skills and knowledge can you bring to the program?

6) What skills and knowledge do you expect to gain from the program?



Letter of Reference Cover Page

Project Oceanology Ocean Camp staff would like to thank you, in advance, for your time and effort in writing a letter of reference on behalf of the applicant. We believe that it is a valuable part of the application process to obtain input from individuals associated with the applicant. Please complete the 'Letter of Reference Form' and send with your letter of recommendation.

Project Oceanology must receive completed Letters of Reference as soon as possible for this application to be complete (but not later than **March 1, 2021**). Please be honest and straightforward in your comments. Specific examples are appreciated. You are under NO obligation to provide a copy of your letter of recommendation to the applicant.

Please keep in mind that the applicant is applying to be a member of the Project Oceanology Junior Counselor Program whose purpose is to utilize marine science to develop leadership, citizenship and life skills. As a Junior Counselor, the applicant would assist Project Oceanology Instructors and Ocean Diversity Institute Interns during camp activities, facilitating campers' exploration of the marine environment.

Description:

When writing your letter, also consider the applicant's skills, work habits, leadership, extracurricular involvement, communication style and ability to work in groups.

Letters may be provided to the candidate in a sealed envelope with your signature across the flap, or sent directly to Project Oceanology:

Email (Please scan letter with original signature): admin@oceanology.org

Mail:

Project Oceanology
Attn: Junior Counselor Program Application
1084 Shennecossett Road
Groton, CT 06340

Thank you,

Marissa Gustafson
Ocean Camp Director
mgustafson@oceanology.org

Debbie Sayer
Ocean Camp Director
dsayer@oceanology.org



Letter of Reference Form – Page 1 of 2

Please send as soon as possible for this application to be complete (but not later than March 1, 2021):

Completed Letters of Reference should be sent to:

Project Oceanology
Attn: Junior Counselor Program
1084 Shennecossett Road
Groton, CT 06340
admin@oceanology.org

Date: _____

Name of Applicant: _____

Name of Reference:

Address: _____

City/State/Zip

Phone _____ email _____

Relationship to Applicant: ☐ Teacher/Educator ☐ Community Member/Mentor

For how long, and in what capacity, have you known the applicant?

Please rate the Applicant in the following areas:

[illegible]



Letter of Reference Form – Page 2 of 2

1. What do you consider to be the applicant's primary talents or strengths?
2. In what areas do you feel the applicant could improve?
3. If you are able, please comment on the applicant's relationship with his/her peers.

Reference Name: _____

Reference Signature:

Date: _____