



**Friends of Otter Rock Marine Reserve
Tidepool Ambassador Program (TAP) Coordinator
College Internship Position for 2026**

Friends of Otter Rock Marine Reserve (Friends) is a Depoe Bay–based 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to protecting rocky shore intertidal life, nesting and migrating seabirds, and marine mammals at Devil’s Punch Bowl State Natural Area, Otter Rock Marine Gardens, and the Otter Rock Marine Reserve—one of five marine reserves on the Oregon coast.

Friends advances its mission through community science and on-site interpretive programming delivered by volunteers and high school interns who engage thousands of visitors each summer.

Position Overview

This paid, part-time internship position is open to current college students or 2026 graduates pursuing studies in a marine or ocean-related science.

Location

Programming takes place at Otter Rock Marine Gardens (nearshore between the Devil’s Punchbowl overlook and the Inn at Otter Crest). Community science surveys also occur on the south side of the Punchbowl.

Duration - April 16 – August 31, 2026

- Virtual training begins the second week of April
- Work hours align primarily with minus tides (many occur on weekends)
- Community science schedules allow some flexibility

Compensation

- \$20/hour, guaranteed 200 hours (April 16–August 31)
- Training time and approved additional opportunities count toward hours
- Eligible for end-of-season bonus upon completion of all hours and reports
- Pay issued twice monthly

Benefits & Professional Development

- Hands-on experience in marine conservation, stewardship, and wildlife protection
- Leadership experience supervising youth interns
- Mentorship and resume-building experience
- Networking with marine science professionals and agencies such as Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
- Oregon State University internship credit possible (with advisor approval)
- OSU housing available May 1-August 31, 2026, sponsored by Marine and Coastal Opportunities (MACO)
- Participation in MACO student activities and professional development workshops
- Scholarship to attend the annual Northwest Aquatics and Marine Education (NAME) conference in Washington in October

Key Responsibilities

Intern Supervision & Leadership

- Supervise and mentor up to 10 high school interns
- Create and manage intern schedules and timesheets
- Assign daily roles and ensure safe staffing coverage
- Provide guidance, answer questions, and support interns as needed

Visitor Engagement

- Serve as lead tidepool guide and staff the outreach table and visitation areas (Devil's Punchbowl and north side below Inn at Otter Crest)
- Engage visitors and share information about tidepool habitats, marine life, marine reserves, and conservation
- Help ensure positive and safe visitor interactions. Provide general support and de-escalation if needed regarding visitor behavior.

Community Science

- Lead approximately five projects: black oystercatcher monitoring, sea star surveys, marine debris surveys, COASST, and CoastWatch mile reports
- Track and report visitor engagement numbers
- Submit an end-of-season summary report

Program Support

- Contribute content to the monthly newsletter upon request
- Complete intern evaluations and a personal summary of your experience
- Present poster session to MACO on August 20th (mandatory)

Qualifications

Required

- Undergraduate college student, or 2026 graduate pursuing marine or ocean-science related field
- Familiarity with Oregon's marine reserve program and Otter Rock Marine Reserve
- Strong organizational skills and ability to communicate comfortably with the public
- Experience mentoring youth and/or leading youth programs
- Reliable transportation

Preferred

- Bi-lingual skills.

Note: Mandatory background check will be conducted for selected applicant.

Application Process (due March 26, 2026)

Please submit:

- Resume
- Cover letter explaining your interest and relevant experience
- One letter of recommendation from a professor

Email application materials to:

Fawn Custer – treasurer@friendsofotterrock.org and

Marilyne Coblentz – marilyne.coblentz@friendsofotterrock.org

Questions may be directed to either contact above.