

John D. MacArthur Beach State Park

Naturalist Internship Application



John D. MacArthur Beach State Park
10900 Jack Nicklaus Drive
North Palm Beach, FL 33408
561-776-7449
www.macarthurbeach.org





John D. MacArthur Beach State Park Naturalist Internship



John D. MacArthur Beach State Park (MacBeach) was established to protect a diverse and undisturbed subtropical coastal habitat from development. The Park is named for John D. MacArthur, whose generosity allowed the State of Florida to secure the land. Developed in part with funds donated by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Park opened to the public in 1989.

In addition to protecting our natural heritage, MacBeach is a model public-private partnership. Owned by the State of Florida, the staff and daily needs of the Park are funded by the State. Since its founding in 1990, the Friends organization has enriched and enhanced the Park by soliciting donations, seeking volunteers, raising funds, holding special events and operating a gift shop.

MacBeach, Palm Beach County's only state park, is situated on a barrier island between the Atlantic Ocean and the Lake Worth Lagoon. The Park is made up of 436 acres of pristine coastal land and contains four different communities or habitats including seven species of plants and twenty-two species of animals on the endangered or threatened list. MacBeach is truly an "Island in Time."

At MacArthur Beach State Park we offer a professionally supervised internship experience. The Naturalist Internship program provides undergrad students and recent graduates the opportunity to gain invaluable professional development and real-world experiences at MacBeach.

Naturalist Interns will gain experience in and develop an extensive knowledge of:

- Implementing Environmental Education Programs to 1st -12th grade students
- Public Speaking and Leadership
- Volunteer Engagement
- Animal Care
- Local Flora/Fauna of MacBeach ecosystems
- Florida Park Service regulations, procedures, and policies
- Citizen Science Programming
- Communications

Additional skills and training are available depending on an intern's available time and interests. These opportunities can include:

- Nature Center Docent/Interpreter
- Exotic Plant Removal and Habitat Restoration
- Biological Surveys and Research
- Sea Turtle Walks (seasonally)

Agency Responsibilities - John D. MacArthur Beach State Park Will Provide:

1. Exposure and development of skills to a variety of administrative and hands on experiences such as: environmental education, hiring processes, training, programming, marketing, special events, facility management/operations, the opportunity to attend staff, board, and advisory committee meetings, etc.
2. Opportunity to acquire skills and in-depth knowledge to pursue specific environmental education, outdoor recreation, resource management, or other related careers
3. Experience in leadership, supervisory, and administrative functions within Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park
4. Supervision by a professional staff person(s) during all aspects of internship training and performance
5. An orientation to John D. MacArthur Beach State Park and the Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park; basic philosophy, procedures, and mission
6. Free housing on Park property (when applicable)
7. Facilitation/instruction opportunities of the Environmental Education Programs
8. Observation and feedback of on-the-job performance to provide support and improve skills
9. Opportunity to integrate theory and practice in an intern's professional education; to compare, evaluate, adapt, and adopt what is seen in practice to what has been previously experienced in theory
10. Opportunity to gain an understanding and appreciation of the role, duties, and responsibilities of full-time professional staff for their future profession

Naturalist Internship Requirements:

1. Experience or interest in working with students of different age groups
2. Comfortable working in water and have the ability to swim
3. Must be able to safely navigate natural unimproved terrain and ensure the safety of program participants
4. Must be able to lift and carry objects and materials up to 50 lbs.
5. Must know, respect, and follow safety policies and procedures given by direct supervisors
6. Must be able to consistently work in an outdoor setting with extreme weather conditions including, but not limited to hot, sunny, humid, rainy, and/or cold days

Undergraduate

- Good academic standing at a College/University with a GPA of 2.75 or higher
- At least 20 hours/week (40 hours/week in summer)

Recent Graduate

- Bachelor's Degree in environmental education, biology, environmental science, ecology, or a related field
- 40 hours/week

Naturalist Internship Desired Qualifications:

- Desire to teach children and adults in an outdoor setting
- Excellent oral and written skills
- Professional, well-organized, and safety-conscious
- Team player who is able to take on leadership roles and responsibilities
- Flexible in working hours and available for weekend and/or evening hours and special events

Internship Timeframes: (exact dates determined during interview)

- **Spring Semester *January - May***
 - During this semester interns will assist with school field trip programs, professional development workshops for teachers, and receive training for other park programming and projects. Full time interns have the option to develop and complete a park project.
- **Summer Semester *May - August***
 - During this semester, interns will lead and supervise summer camp programs which includes kayaking, snorkeling, and environmental education activities.
- **Fall Semester *September - December***
 - During this semester interns will assist with school field trip programs, professional development workshops for teachers, and receive training for other park programs and projects. Full time interns have the option to develop and complete a park project.

Compensation Information:

Naturalist Interns are not employees of the Florida Park Service nor the Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park, Inc. Naturalist interns are considered volunteers for the Florida Park Service.

- ***Undergraduates:*** Internship Credits can be earned during this internship position based on attendance and performance. Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park will work with an intern's college/university for them to earn required credits.
- ***Recent Graduates:*** Recent Graduate interns have the option to receive a stipend, issued bi-weekly. Stipends are based on days worked (beginning the first day of work at the park - up to \$450.00 bi-weekly). On-site housing may be available for those who qualify.

How To Apply:

1. Review the entire application packet
2. Complete Application Form
3. Send a Cover Letter, Resume, and completed Application to Sarah Norton, sarah@macarthurbeach.org

Previous Intern Testimonials:

“The summer undergrad internship helped me immensely in building skills in leadership, public speaking, intuitive thinking, and many other professional aspects as well. Besides gaining experience teaching science-based lessons to our campers, I also got to experience working with rangers in the field, sea turtle nesting surveys, animal care, and exotic removal/native propagation. These collective experiences opened my mind to many career paths that I was unaware of before.”

- Summer 2021 Naturalist Intern

“I was able to try a range of experiences including professional development workshops, invasive plant removal with rangers, care for ambassador animals, help biologists conduct surveys on our ecosystems, and much more. This was so important and encouraging to me because I was able to find out what I enjoyed doing, and what I didn't. As I leave this internship I'm taking so many lessons with me.”

- Spring 2023 Naturalist Intern



John D. MacArthur Beach State Park
 Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service

Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park, Inc.



NATURALIST INTERN PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM

Full Name:

Permanent Address:

Present Address:

Telephone No.:

Telephone No.:

e-mail Address:

e-mail Address:

Month & Day of Birth:

Are you 18 or Older?

Driver License #:

In case of emergency, notify:

Name:

Relationship:

Address:

Telephone No.:

Background Information

Have you ever been convicted of a felony or a first degree misdemeanor?	Yes	No
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Have you ever pled Nolo Contendere or plead guilty to a crime which is a felony or a first degree misdemeanor?	Yes	No
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Have you ever had the adjudication of guilt withheld for a crime which is a felony or a first degree misdemeanor?	Yes	No
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If yes to any of the aforementioned questions, what charges or convictions and where?

Note: A "Yes" answer to these questions will not automatically bar you from volunteering. The nature, job-relatedness, severity and date of the offense in relation to the position for which you are applying are considered. It is the policy of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection that all current and new volunteers, who are assigned to perform the duties of positions of special trust as designated by the secretary, may be subject to a security background check including fingerprinting as a condition of employment or working for or with the Department.

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

University/College Name:

Major/Minor:

Year:

Freshman

Sophomore

Junior

Senior

Graduate

Degree or Number of Credits Earned:

GPA:

Graduation Date:

Internship Focus (Circle One): - Environmental Education
- Summer Science Camp

When do you prefer to perform internship:

Fall of _____ Spring of _____ Summer of _____ Other _____

WORK/VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Most Recent Employer:

Telephone Number:

Supervisor (Name & Title):

Position Title:

City, State:

Start Date:

End Date:

Description of Duties: *(Use an additional sheet if necessary)*

Employer:

Telephone Number:

Supervisor (Name & Title):

Position Title:

City, State:

Start Date:

End Date:

Description of Duties: *(Use an additional sheet if necessary)*

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Career Plans:

University scholarships or academic distinction:

State your reasons for requesting a Naturalist Intern position at MacArthur Beach State Park:

College/University Contact Information: (Undergraduates only)

Advisor Name:

Advisor Telephone:

Advisor Email:

References: Please list up to two persons not related to you, who are familiar with your character and qualifications. • YOU MUST INCLUDE BOTH PHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL ADDRESS •

Full name and title	Phone Number	Email Address

Signature _____

Date _____

Advisor/University Official Signature _____
(Undergraduates Only)

Date _____

Send completed application to:

Sarah Norton, Director of Education
John D. MacArthur Beach State Park
10900 Jack Nicklaus Drive
North Palm Beach, FL 333408

Questions? Call Sarah 561.776.7449 Ext. 104 or email sarah@macarthurbeach.org