



Natural Science Trainee Internship Application for High School Students

Maria Mitchell Association 4 Vestal Street

Nantucket, MA 02554

Deadline for Submission: April 10, 2026

ABOUT THE ROLE:

The Natural Science High School Interns support the daily summer operations of the Maria Mitchell Aquarium, Natural Science Museum, and Research Center. Responsibilities include caring for live animals, setting up and cleaning equipment, providing professional and courteous visitor engagement, and assisting with general facility upkeep. Depending on the program cycle, interns may also have opportunities to contribute to ongoing research projects.

Interns will be expected to learn the names, ecology, and general biological backgrounds of marine and terrestrial species found around Nantucket.

Ideal candidates are hardworking, self-motivated, and genuinely interested in the natural sciences. These positions are highly competitive with limited availability. Applicants who have previously volunteered with us will receive priority consideration, and past performance as a volunteer or intern will be reviewed alongside the current application.

High School Interns are classified as trainees and scheduled for 4-hour shifts at \$10 per hour. Interns may work **2–5 shifts per week over a 12-week period** and may be assigned to the Aquarium, Natural Science Museum, and/or Research Center. We welcome continued enthusiasm and involvement beyond the standard internship window.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Current students in **Grades 9–12 or 2026 high school graduates** at the time of the internship
- Interns under age 18 must obtain a work permit and provide it to the MMA before the first day
- Willingness to handle and feed a variety of animals (e.g., turtles, fish, snakes)
- Genuine interest in environmental or life sciences
- Interest or experience in natural science, outdoor work, or related fields
- Ability to work collaboratively as part of a team
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills when interacting with the public
- Demonstrated maturity, reliability, leadership potential, and adaptability
- Comfort working in both laboratory and outdoor environments (including wearing waders) and lifting up to 40 lbs. (full 5-gallon bucket)
- Nantucket residents are strongly encouraged to apply

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Provide daily care for live animals (animal husbandry) within the Aquarium and/or Natural Science Museum
- Interact professionally and enthusiastically with visitors during programs, field trips, tours, and general public hours
- Learn and articulate the ecology and natural history of species on exhibit
- Check, maintain, and clean animal tanks, enclosures, and related equipment
- Assist with field or laboratory work to support ongoing research projects
- Communicate MMA research findings to the public during tours, programs, and educational experiences

Name: _____

School: _____

(Expected) Graduation Date (mo./yr.): ____/____ Date of Birth: _____

Present Academic Year: ☐ Freshman ☐ Sophomore ☐ Junior ☐ Senior

Are you a **U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident?**

☐ Citizen ☐ Permanent Resident

Permanent Address in the United States:

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Parent/Guardian name, phone, and email address:

Which **WEEKS YOU ARE AVAILABLE?** Please put an **"X"** on the box next to all of the weeks that you are available.

- ☐ Week 1: June 8–14
- ☐ Week 2: June 15–21
- ☐ Week 3: June 22–28
- ☐ Week 4: June 29–July 5
- ☐ Week 5: July 6–12
- ☐ Week 6: July 13–19
- ☐ Week 7: July 20–26
- ☐ Week 8: July 27–August 2
- ☐ Week 9: August 3–9
- ☐ Week 10: August 10–16
- ☐ Week 11: August 17–23
- ☐ Week 12: August 24–30

WHAT TIME OF DAY ARE YOU AVAILABLE? (Choose all that apply)

- ☐ Morning 8:30am – 12:30pm
- ☐ Mid-day 10:30am – 2:30pm
- ☐ Afternoon 12:30pm – 4:30pm

WHAT DAYS OF THE WEEK WORK BEST FOR YOU THIS SUMMER? (Choose all that apply)

☐ Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday

Please answer the following questions, each in ten sentences or fewer:

1. Why are you interested in interning at the Maria Mitchell Association, and how do you think this internship could help you grow personally, academically, or professionally?
2. What topics in natural science, wildlife, or the environment excite you most, and why?
3. What experiences, skills, or qualities make you a strong candidate for this internship?
4. Have you had any experience caring for live animals? If so, please describe it.
5. Have you ever taught, mentored, or led others (students, children, peers, or adults)? Describe what you did and what you learned from the experience.
6. Describe a time you worked as part of a team. What role did you play, and what did you learn?
7. Describe a time you solved a problem or took initiative in a project, activity, or class. What happened and what did you learn?
8. What is a new skill or topic you've taught yourself recently? How did you approach learning it?
9. Which MMA facility—Aquarium, Natural Science Museum, or Research Center—are you most interested in interning at, and why?
10. Are you available to work 2–5 shifts per week during the 12-week internship (June–August)? If not, please explain.
11. Do you have any prior experience with the MMA, Nantucket's wildlife, or local environmental projects? If so, please describe.

Please list two references who are familiar with your academic, volunteer and/or work experiences

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Relationship/Title: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Relationship/Title: _____

Additional Materials:

1. **Resume:** Please include a current resume with your application.
2. **Cover Letter:** Provide a cover letter describing your background, interests, and the strengths you would bring to the Maria Mitchell Association.
3. **Submission:** Please submit your completed application, resume, references, and cover letter by mail or email. If emailing, send documents as PDF files only. See mailing info below.

Jónelle Gurley

Director of Science and Programs

Maria Mitchell Association

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Nantucket, MA 02554

Phone: 508.228.9198

Email: jgurley@mariamtichell.org

Have you completed everything?

Cover Letter ☐

Application ☐

Questions Answered ☐

Reference Information ☐

Resume ☐