

Get Involved

Volunteers Wanted for Sanctuary Programs

Help Educate the Public and Protect Our Marine Resources and Maritime Heritage

There's a wild ocean place just off the Massachusetts coast that can benefit from your help. Almost the size of Rhode Island, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary stretches between Cape Ann and Cape Cod and is home to an amazing array of wildlife and a diverse collection of shipwrecks. Through research, resource protection and education, sanctuary staff and volunteers work together to protect and enhance our natural and cultural treasures for future generations.

Volunteers make a unique and valuable contribution by expanding contact with local communities and building a sense of stewardship for the sanctuary. Volunteer docent events and presentations increase public awareness and support by helping people learn more about the research and conservation efforts of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary team. Other volunteer projects support the sanctuary in many large and small ways. In return, volunteers gain a better understanding of this exciting ocean world and have an opportunity to make a difference.

We invite individuals with a variety of skills and interests to join our growing volunteer program. Specific openings change from time to time. Find current listings, program news and events, and applications at <http://stellwagen.noaa.gov/involved/volunteers.html>

For more information about the program, e-mail updates, or to apply for a position, contact:

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Volunteer Coordinator
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Phone: 781-545-8026 ext. 240



Credit: NOAA/SBNSMS

Volunteers can provide additional information to visitors at sanctuary exhibits such as here at the Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center.

Visitors at the Cape Cod Maritime Festival try their hand at mapping a mock shipwreck. Such events offer volunteers an opportunity to educate the public about sanctuary resources while having fun at the same time.



Credit: NOAA/SBNSMS

Potential Volunteer Opportunities



Credit: NOAA/SBNMS

Volunteers can help sanctuary staff conduct outreach at local festivals held around New England.

Events such as the annual Cape Cod Maritime Festival provide a great way to showcase Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary as a leader in marine conservation.



Credit: NOAA/SBNMS

Stellwagen Ambassadors: Ambassadors share sanctuary information at public events, as part of museum, school and library programs, and may give formal presentations and tours to groups or run educational activities. We are accepting applications for Ambassadors now.

Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC): Volunteers from non-governmental organizations and the general public serve with government representatives on the council, which is the formal organizational link to the sanctuary's user community. Refer to the SAC web page for a complete description: <http://stellwagen.noaa.gov/management/sac/sachome.html>

Data Gathering: Volunteers may assist research staff by helping to gather data or fill in specific data gaps by searching the Internet, libraries and archives. Others may help collect scientific data in the field.

Media Support: Volunteers may review raw video footage and image archives for exceptional images, digitize older images, prepare images for the image library, and help organize and retrieve images. Volunteer photographers and videographers may contribute publication-quality images and help document programs.

Liaison / Distribution Support: Volunteers in various geographic locations may help maintain displays of sanctuary program information and literature.

Facilities Support: Volunteers with backgrounds in skilled trades, such as carpentry or vessel maintenance, may help on projects to improve and expand sanctuary facilities.

Educator / Writer: Volunteers with teaching backgrounds and strong writing skills may help develop curriculum materials for schools and increase educational opportunities on the sanctuary website. Other writers are needed to help develop our regular publications, such as *Stellwagen Soundings* and *Stellwagen Banknotes*.

Web Support: Volunteers may provide assistance to staff who maintain the sanctuary website and other social media outlets.

Student Projects: The sanctuary is building relationships with certain high schools and universities to offer internships, community service projects and other partnership opportunities.