



# Marine Ecology Program



Inspire the next generation of environmental stewards and ocean protectors

Every year, over one thousand students come to Fort Ross State Historic Park (FRSHP) to learn about coastal wildlife, ecosystems, and their intersection with cultural history in Fort Ross Conservancy's Marine Ecology Program (MEP).

This year, we are launching the Coastal Academy which includes citizen science, conservation projects, the MEP, and lectures. We monitor the resident sea lion populations, collaborate with NOAA and other environmental organizations, and will be starting a habitat restoration project for endangered butterflies.

We are looking for passionate marine science educators who enjoy working with kids to be instructors for the MEP and assist with Coastal Academy initiatives. The instructor serves as a knowledgeable interpreter, facilitating immersive experiences that foster appreciation and understanding of the natural environment and cultural heritage of the area while ensuring group safety.



## Role specifications

- Teach students of all ages, mostly elementary and middle schoolers, in a 1-5 hour outdoor education program.
- Lead activities, dissections, hikes, environmental education, and coastal exploration.
- Assist with outreach events for the Coastal Academy.
- Have up-to-date knowledge of the natural and cultural history of the Sonoma Coast including the history of sea otter hunting at Fort Ross (instructors will also receive training).
- Able to independently and collaboratively deliver the MEP while ensuring the safety of program participants and staff.

### Ideal qualifications

- Studying or completed a degree in environmental science, ecology, marine biology or another related field/other relevant background.
- At least 1 year of experience in environmental education, working with kids, or teaching in formal or non-formal education settings.



Scan the QR code to visit the Marine Ecology Program website



Teach kids  
marine science  
in the field



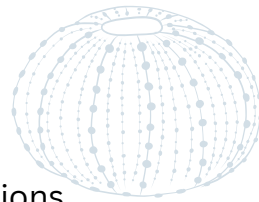
Improve your  
communication  
& presentation  
skills



Assist with  
science outreach  
& coastal  
conservation



## What we teach:



- **Kelp forest restoration** as part of NOAA's Sonoma coast kelp restoration project. This includes sea urchin dissections.
- **Marine mammal identification and monitoring:** harbor seal, California sea lion and Steller sea lion surveys. This involves carrying a telescope for a 40 min hike to the sea lion islands.
- **The sea otter fur trade:** the lasting impacts on coastal ecosystems and why protective measures are important.
- **Tide pooling:** Marine invertebrate biology and ecology, and sea star wasting syndrome. May include mussel dissections.
- **Pollinators and winged wildlife** as part of our endangered butterfly habitat restoration and research project.
- **Sand crab and rocky intertidal Surveys:** [LIMPETS curriculum](#) designed for middle and high schoolers.

Our goal is for students to get an idea of what it is like being a marine scientist in the field.

This is a casual, on-call, position, and most MEPs are in the spring with a few in the summer and fall. To apply, please email your resume and a short cover letter outlining your relevant background in coastal ecology or a related field and teaching experience to Dione Deaker at [mep@fortross.org](mailto:mep@fortross.org).

We are currently looking for two educators. If the positions are filled, your resume will be kept on file for position openings in the future. Educators are required to attend a training day at FRSHP.

Other conditions:

- A valid license to drive in California
- Ability to walk up to 6 miles during programs on uneven terrain including sand, the rocky shore, and along coastal bluffs
- Flexible working schedule
- Up-to-date vaccinations for COVID-19
- Must be able to pass a background check

Compensation: \$20 per hour



**Fort Ross Conservancy acknowledges that the lands on which we operate are the occupied ancestral land of the Kashia Pomo, Metini**

Fort Ross Conservancy (FRC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and California State Park Cooperating Association that specializes in advocating for environmental stewardship and conservation.