

Escambia County, Marine Resources Division

Accepting Applications for 2025 Summer Internships



Marine Resources Division Internship for Marine Biology / Environmental Studies

The Marine Resources Division is currently seeking interns interested in GIS, waterway management, fisheries, education/ outreach, and conservation. Do any of the below project examples interest you? Are you dependable, detail-oriented, and motivated? An internship with Marine Resources, Escambia County, would be an excellent addition to your resume.

Summer Internship Available Projects: Artificial Reefs, GIS and Coastal Erosion, Coastal Conservation and Outreach, Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Monitoring, and more! **See the application packet for a full description.**

The Summer Internship requires a commitment of one full semester (3 months) with a minimum of 8 hours per week.

We are also seeking several interns to assist with Artificial Reef Boat Surveys, as well as interns interested in a year-long research internship commitment.

These internships are a great way to find out what you want out of your career and gain invaluable work experience. Internships are generally **voluntary** and **unpaid** however occasionally grant funds become available for paid internships in different divisions. Directed study credit may also be possible, coordinate with your academic advisor.

To be accepted as an intern, candidates must do the following:

1. Submit the following:
(i) volunteer candidate request form (application), (ii) a letter of interest (including which project topics you're interested in), (iii) Resume or current Curriculum Vitae, (iv) current full collegiate transcript (unofficial), (v) provide weekly availability.
2. Undergo a background check (using the completed application).
3. Be interviewed by Division Manager/ Staff.

To apply, candidates should email their resume packets with the subject line "Candidate's last name: Summer 2025 Internship Application" to Brianna Nicholson at brnicholson@myescambia.com . We are accepting applications now for a limited number of slots. Applications may be submitted as late as April 4th, 2025.



Escambia County, Marine Resources Division

Project Description for Summer 2025



Thank you for your interest in Escambia County Marine Resource Division's (MRD) Volunteer and Intern Program. Below you will find a list of the Marine Resource Division's current project topics, a short description, project qualifications, and the Volunteer and Intern Program expectations and requirements. There is a potential to branch out within our current projects to create your own project. This will be between you, your advisor, and the Marine Resources Division's ability to support the project. Please contact the intern coordinator if you are interested in the project topics but have another project idea, and we can discuss those options.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS): The primary role of our GIS intern is to create and analyze mapping data. We have a variety of projects that require GIS work including, coastal erosion, plant surveys, SAAD vessel monitoring, artificial reefs, sea turtles, and more. This intern will assist with waterway signage and collect data for the Coastal Erosion project, using GPS receivers to monitor coastal shoreline. **Qualifications:** Must have practical experience and adequate GIS skills. ArcPro is the current software used by Marine Resources Division but is subject to change. Applicants may be asked to submit a completed project as an example of their skills. Must be comfortable with fieldwork with the ability to work under Florida's weather conditions. Must be comfortable working on or around the water where the ability to swim is preferred but not required. Must be willing and able to do shallow water work.

Coastal Conservation & Outreach: This position will assist in creating and implementing public education programs and community outreach including use of social media platforms. This position will work closely with staff within our Perdido Key Conservation Management Plan and public events. This person must be **willing to work on Perdido Key and downtown Pensacola**. This intern would assist with monitoring and managing a variety of topics within our HMP and conservation areas, including beach mice, horseshoe crabs, solitary bees, sea turtles, and nighttime light monitoring. **Qualifications:** Applicants should be comfortable speaking to audiences of all ages and backgrounds, have strong written communication skills and be available for occasional weekend/evening work. Must be comfortable with working in typical Florida weather conditions. Knowledge of general marine ecology, basic photo/video editing, and graphic design is preferred. Applicants **must submit** a writing sample with application paperwork.

Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Monitoring and NOAA HAB Monitoring: Harmful algal bloom (red tide *K. brevis*) occurs when the dinoflagellate, *K. brevis*, is able to reproduce on a large-scale due to ideal water quality parameters. HAB appear almost every year between late summer & fall. HABs are toxic to humans & wildlife and can affect multiple systems- gastrointestinal (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea), neurological (reversal of hot/cold sensations, tingling/pricking pains, headaches, vertigo), musculoskeletal (loss of muscle control and pain), respiratory symptoms may develop, and in severe cases, heart rate may be affected. We have recently started working on a similar project with NOAA where specific HABs are monitored for from samples in the local area. These samples are examined under a microscope and if any potential HABs are found, these samples are sent to an official NOAA lab. **Qualifications:** Must be comfortable and willing to work under Florida's weather conditions. Must be comfortable working on or around the water.

Artificial Reefs: Work with Marine Resources Division staff to assist in Artificial Reef monitoring by boat. Gather and assess information surrounding the history, geographic data, and marine life involved with Escambia County's Artificial Reefs. Assist in video analysis from reef dives and participate in literature analysis of research surrounding Artificial Reefs. **Qualifications:** Must be comfortable and willing to work under Florida's weather conditions. Must be comfortable working on or around the water, including boat work.

MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION
Summer 2025 Internship
Applicant Next Steps

1. Receive a Volunteer Application Packet from Intern Administrator/Coordinator
2. Send the following via email to Intern Coordinator (brnicholson@myescambia.com) or you can drop them at office (Center Office Complex 3363 West Park Place, Pensacola FL 32505)
 - a. Volunteer Application Packet
 - b. Resume or Curriculum Vitae
 - c. Letter of interest to include projects interest
 - d. Availability (10-30 hour/week for at least 3 months)
 - e. Contact Information for at least 2 references
3. Interview with Intern Coordinator and other program staff
4. After approval :
 - Background check will be processed
 - Start date will be scheduled
 - Receive an ID badge and a county email and username
 - Projects will be assigned prior to the first day
5. Requirements for the internships:
 - Complete an Intern Orientation
 - Read and sign the Standard Operating Procedures for Marine Resources Division and photo release
 - Complete Volunteer Time Sheets to keep record of your hours
 - Opportunity to add ideas to existing projects or suggest new projects
 - Participate in the intern symposium at the end of your internship regarding your project
 - Complete a brief report on your project, ensure procedures are written down/ updated;
 - Return your ID badge

VOLUNTEER POLICY MANUAL

Escambia County Board of County Commissioners



“Volunteer Escambia”

This Volunteer Policy Manual is intended to establish and explain the policies by which volunteers will be incorporated into the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners. This manual is considered a living document and will continue to grow the Escambia County Volunteer Program. Revisions will periodically be made to address circumstances and changes necessary to operate the program efficiently and to ensure that volunteers find success and fulfillment in their contribution of time.



Escambia County Governmental Complex
Attention: County Administration
221 Palafox Place, Suite 420
Pensacola, FL 32502
850-595-4949

<http://www.myescambia.com/>

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Escambia County Volunteer Mission Statement

The mission of The Escambia County Board of County Commissioners' Volunteer Program is to inform and to enhance the quality of life of the citizens of Escambia County and to foster lifelong learning. The primary purpose of the Volunteer Program is to augment and enhance community engagement and the delivery of County services to the citizens of Escambia County. Additionally, the Volunteer Program encourages involvement in local government and promotes participation by individuals and groups within Escambia County.

Escambia County is committed to the idea that involving volunteers in its operations will assist in carrying out this mission for the community. Volunteers provide a vital link between Escambia County and the community. A successful Volunteer Program requires that staff and volunteers work as a team to implement the mission and goals of Escambia County. Promoting volunteerism fosters increased citizen involvement in the community and enables citizens to enhance and maintain needed human services.

Escambia County is committed to:

- Providing unique and meaningful volunteer opportunities for volunteers to serve on
- Facilitating active partnerships between Escambia County staff and citizens of Escambia County
- Enriching County programs and services through volunteer involvement and participation
- Helping citizens become more familiar with County programs, services and issues

The Vital Few are the guiding principles that are the foundation of direction and decision-making. Escambia County with the assistance of volunteers will assure our success in:

Restoring public trust
Fiscal restraint and accountability
Customer service excellence
Economic development, and
Infrastructure excellence

***"Climbing toward the future in providing efficient and responsive services that enhance our quality of life,
meeting common needs and promoting a safe and healthy community"***

Escambia County Volunteer Policies Manual

1. Overall Policy on Utilization of Volunteers

The achievement of the goals of Escambia County is best served by the active participation of citizens of the community. To this end, the County accepts and encourages the involvement of volunteers of Escambia County within appropriate programs and activities. All County and staff are encouraged to assist in the creation of meaningful and productive roles in which volunteers might serve and to assist in recruitment of volunteers from the community.

2. Purpose of Volunteer Policies

The purpose of these policies is to provide overall guidance and direction to staff and volunteers engaged in volunteer involvement and management efforts. These policies are intended for internal management guidance only, and do not constitute, either implicitly or explicitly, a binding contractual or personnel agreement. The County reserves the exclusive right to change any of these policies at any time and to expect adherence to the changed policy. Changes to or exceptions from these policies may only be granted by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), and must be obtained in advance and in writing. Areas not specifically covered by these policies shall be determined by the County Administrator.

3. Definition of 'Volunteer'

Volunteers are not County employees. A 'volunteer' is anyone who without compensation or expectation of compensation beyond reimbursement performs a task at the direction of and on behalf of the County. A 'volunteer' must be officially accepted and enrolled by the County prior to performance of the task.

4. Service at the Discretion of the County

The County accepts the service of volunteers with the understanding that such service is at the sole discretion of the County. Volunteers agree that the County may at any time, for whatever reason, decide to terminate the volunteer's relationship with the County.

The volunteer may at any time, for whatever reason, decide to sever the volunteer's relationship with the County. Notice of such a decision should be communicated as soon as possible to the volunteer's supervisor.

5. Volunteer Rights and Responsibilities

Volunteers are viewed as a valuable resource to this County, its staff, and its citizens. Volunteers shall be extended the right to be given meaningful assignments and the right to effective supervision.

In return, volunteers shall agree to actively perform their duties to the best of their abilities and to remain loyal to the goals and procedures of the County.

6. Confidentiality

Volunteers are responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of all proprietary or privileged information to which they are exposed while serving as a volunteer, whether this information involves a single staff, volunteer, citizen, or other person or involves overall County business. Failure to maintain confidentiality will result in termination of the volunteer's relationship with the County.

7. Position Descriptions

Volunteer staff, just as paid staff, requires a clear, complete, and current description of the duties and responsibilities of the position which they are expected to fill. Prior to any volunteer assignment or recruitment effort, a position description must be developed for each volunteer position. This position will be given to each accepted volunteer and utilized in subsequent management and evaluation efforts. Position descriptions should

be reviewed and updated at least every two years, or whenever the work involved in the position changes substantially. Position descriptions will be maintained in the Bureau/Division with a copy to Human Resources. All position descriptions shall include a description of the purpose and duties of the position, a designated supervisor and worksite, a timeframe for the performance of the job and a listing of job qualifications.

8. Requests for Volunteers

Volunteers shall be recruited by the County on a pro-active basis, with the intent of broadening and expanding the volunteer involvement of the community. Volunteers shall be recruited without regard to gender, handicap, age, race or other condition. The sole qualification for volunteer recruitment shall be suitability to perform a task on behalf of the County. Volunteers may be recruited through either an interest in specific functions or through a general interest in volunteering which will later be matched with a specific function. No final acceptance of a volunteer shall take place without a specific written volunteer position description for that volunteer.

9. Recruitment of Minors

Volunteers may not be below the age of 12. Volunteers between the ages of 12-14 may not participate in volunteer service for the County without a parent or guardian present at all times. Volunteers between the ages of 15-17 must have the written consent of a parent or guardian prior to volunteering. The volunteer services assigned to a minor should be performed in a non-hazardous environment and should comply with all appropriate requirements of child labor laws.

10. Applications

Volunteers will be required to complete an application prior to providing volunteer service. As stated in paragraph 12, applicants may be required to provide information necessary to complete a criminal background check. Initial applications will be screened by the Bureau designee to ensure that the application is complete. The application will then be reviewed by the appropriate Bureau Chief and prospective volunteers will be selected for interview.

11. Interviewing

Prior to being assigned or appointed to a position, all volunteers will be interviewed to ascertain their suitability by the requesting Bureau/Division for an interest in that position. The interview should determine the qualifications of the volunteer, their ability and commitment to fulfill the requirements of the position, and should answer any questions that the volunteer might have about the position. Interviews may be conducted either in person or by other means. As part of the interviewing process, further processing of the prospective volunteer's application may commence to include any necessary screening described in paragraph 12.

The interviews will be conducted by the appropriate Bureau/Division, signed off on by the Bureau Chief, with the final sign-off by the County Administrator.

12. Criminal Records Check/Screenings

As appropriate for the protection of all involved, volunteers will be required to submit to a criminal background check, drug testing, and other applicable checks and screenings. Volunteers who do not agree to the background checks and screenings or who do not pass the screening process will be refused assignment.

Applicants who do not pass the screening process and are refused assignment will be notified by the Human Resource Division via certified mail.

13. Placement

In placing a volunteer in a position, attention shall be paid to the interests and capabilities of the volunteer and to the requirements of the volunteer position. No placement shall be made unless the requirements of both the volunteer and the supervising staff can be met: no volunteer should be assigned to a 'make-work' position and no position should be given to an unqualified or uninterested volunteer.

14. Acceptance and Appointment

Service as a volunteer with the County shall begin with an official notice of acceptance or appointment to a volunteer position. Notice may only be given by Human Resources. No volunteer shall begin performance of any position until they have been officially accepted for that position and have completed all necessary screening and paperwork. At the time of final acceptance, each volunteer shall complete all necessary enrollment paperwork and shall receive a copy of their job description and agreement of service with the County.

15. Orientation

All volunteers will receive a general orientation on the nature and purpose of the County, an orientation on the nature and operation of the program or activity for which they are recruited, and a specific orientation on the purposes and requirements of the position which they are accepting in that effort.

Orientation will be given by the requesting Bureau/Division.

16. Conduct

Volunteers must be familiar with the policies and procedures outlined in this volunteer manual. Further, volunteers must be polite, courteous and helpful when dealing with citizens.

17. Gratuities

Volunteers will be prohibited from accepting any gift or gratuity from any firm, contractor, consultant, individual or others for any service provided on behalf of the County.

18. On-the-Job Training

Volunteers will receive specific on-the-job training to provide them with the information and skills necessary to perform their volunteer assignment. The timing and methods for delivery of such training should be appropriate to the complexity and demands of the position and the capabilities of the volunteer.

Exit interviews, where possible, should be conducted with volunteers who are leaving their positions. The interview should ascertain why the volunteer is leaving the position, suggestions the volunteer may have to improving the position, and the possibility of involving the volunteer in some other capacity with the County.

Training will be conducted by the requested Bureau/Division.

19. Access to County Property and Materials/County Vehicles

As appropriate, volunteers shall have access to County property and materials necessary to fulfill their duties, and shall receive training in the operation of that equipment. Property and materials shall be utilized only when directly required for County purposes. This policy does not include access to and use of County vehicles.

20. Recognition

A quarterly volunteer recognition event will be conducted by the Bureau to highlight the contribution of volunteers of Escambia County. The volunteers will be formally recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation by the Board of County Commissioners. The Bureaus will be responsible for coordination of the program for volunteers that assist that Bureau. Community service credits and recognition will be given to high school students as well as college interns.

21. Sexual Harassment /EEO Policy Plan

Sexual harassment includes unwelcomed sexual advances, request of sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Any such incidents should be reported immediately to the volunteer's

supervisor or/and Human Resources. The purpose of the Equal Employment Opportunity Plan Policy (EEOP) is to implement the Equal Employment Opportunity Policy Statement, the Unlawful Harassment Policy and the requirements of the U.S. Department of Justice. Escambia County does not tolerate sexual harassment.

22. Ethics

Ethics refers to principles that define behavior as right, good and proper. Such principles do not always dictate a single "morale" course of action, but provide a means of evaluating and deciding among competing options. Governments of all kinds are held to a very high standard of public trust. We must make every effort to insure that all activities of the County, as well as, all other staff in the County offices maintain the standards of conduct that are above reproach.

23. Drug Free Environment

Escambia County provides a drug-free, healthy, and safe environment. A volunteer may not use, possess, distribute, sell or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs. The use of drugs and alcohol is an increasing problem affecting many areas of our society and ranks as one of the major health problems in our country. The pervasive presence of alcohol and substance abuse in our society, the resultant impact upon the workplace, and the County's obligation to its citizens require the establishment of a drug-free workplace policy.

24. Tobacco Free Workplace

Escambia County intends to provide a safe and healthy environment. Smoking in the workplace is prohibited except in outside locations specifically designated as smoking areas. Tobacco addiction is among the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the United States. Escambia County is committed to promoting health, wellness, and disease prevention, and to providing a safe, clean, and healthy environment.

25. Computer Usage

Escambia County's e-mail and internet systems are intended to be used for business purposes only. Escambia County owns the computer and software of the E-mail and internet systems and permits the use of them in the performance of duties. All E-mail and internet records are official County records and should be transmitted only to individuals who have a business need to receive them.

26. Dress Code

As representatives of the County, volunteers, like staff, are responsible for presenting a good image to citizens and to the community. It is also important that volunteers be dressed in a manner that provides for his or her safety. Volunteers will abide by the County's Dress Code Policy.

27. Safety and Liability

Escambia County aims to provide a safe and healthy environment for all volunteers. If a volunteer is injured in the course of the volunteer's service, it is important that the volunteer notify his or her supervisor immediately.

Further, to the extent permitted by law and subject to any claim of sovereign immunity provided by Section 768.28, Florida Statutes, if a volunteer suffers losses or injury while providing the services agreed upon, you may be protected from liability claims filed against you