



Job Title: Research Assistant

Organization: Ocean Research & Conservation Association, Inc. (ORCA)

Location: Vero Beach, FL

About Us: ORCA is a non-profit organization that endeavors to protect and restore aquatic ecosystems and the species they sustain through the development of innovative technologies, science-based conservation action, and community education and outreach.

Job Description: ORCA is seeking a passionate and dedicated individual to join our team as a Research Assistant. The Research Assistant will play a vital role in supporting our ecotoxicity research initiatives and citizen science program.

The Research Assistant will provide technical assistance and support to projects. The position will work with ORCA staff, community volunteers, and external partners to assist our Ecotoxicity, Pollution Mapping Citizen Science, and Land to Sea Monitoring Project Coordinators. The candidate will be responsible for training citizen scientists, overseeing data collection and analyses, assisting in securing funding to support and expand projects, and effectively communicating findings to the public. The Research Assistant will be supervised by the Director of Citizen Science & Education and Ecotoxicity Project Coordinator.

Responsibilities:

As Research Assistant, you will:

- Coordinate and assist in the field, lab, and office on ORCA's citizen science and ecotoxicity research and restoration projects
- Maintain a high level of professional expertise in scientific disciplines relevant to assigned projects
- Train and facilitate community volunteers and/or interns in procedures and protocols specific to projects
- Assist in organizing and analyzing data collected for research and habitat restoration projects
- Assist in dissemination of protocols and project findings through technical reports, peer-reviewed papers, and public presentations
- Assist in securing funding for sustainability and growth of research projects through grant writing, identifying and soliciting sponsors, and participating in fundraising events
- Maintain and organize facilities and equipment
- Collaborate with government, non-government, and academic organizations and institutions on research and restoration programs and initiatives.
- Perform other duties as assigned by the Director of Citizen Science & Education or Research Scientists

Required qualifications:

- Master's degree in environmental or marine science related field, or B.S. with at least three years of relevant experience.
- Strong laboratory analytical skills
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills

- Strong interpersonal skills
- Strong organizational skills, including ability to prioritize and consistently meet deadlines
- Ability to complete tasks independently and within assigned time frames
- Ability to collect, evaluate, analyze, and interpret scientific or technical data
- Ability to lift, push or carry a minimum of 50 lbs, work in harsh environments, and operate vehicles (e.g. truck, boat and trailer)
- Current driver's license

Preferred qualifications:

- A detailed understanding of the Indian River Lagoon
- Background in chemistry, geology, or biogeochemistry
- Experience using a High-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC)
- Experience in habitat restoration projects including living shoreline planning, permitting, installation and scientific monitoring strongly preferred
- Boating and trailering experience

Benefits:

- Salary is commensurate with experience
- Incumbent is eligible for:
 - o 401k with company matching,
 - o Medical plan,
 - o Paid holidays and leave.

To apply, please send both a cover letter and resume to Missy Weiss at mweiss@teamorca.org with "Research Assistant" in the subject line.