



Position: Volunteer Diver
Hiring Organization: WAVE Foundation at Newport Aquarium (AZA Member)
Wavefoundation.org/volunteer
Location: Newport, KY
Volunteer: Volunteer – Unpaid

Position Summary: Provide diving assistance to Dive Services and Animal Care staff with the maintenance and care of various facility exhibits. Clean and maintain the exhibits on a regular schedule, place and remove specimens as required, other tasks as required. The Volunteer Diver is a volunteer position with WAVE Foundation at Newport Aquarium. There is no monetary compensation for this position.

Responsibilities:

- Properly clean and maintain the exhibits.
- Model appropriate behaviors near open water exhibits and be gentle when swimming around animals.
- Be able to take directions from Dive Team staff without exception.
- Adhere to any and all safety protocols both in and out of the water.
- Periodically feed and care for animals residing in exhibits as directed by Animal Care staff.
- Communicate and maintain professional working relationships with educators, students, guests, staff, supervisors, volunteers, other departments, and colleagues in related industries.
- Communicate well in an environment, which may include loud noises, large crowds and varying settings.
- Provide excellent and accurate customer service for WAVE Foundation and Aquarium's missions.
- Direct questions, suggestions, or grievances through appropriate procedures and channels.
- Notify the appropriate person if unable to volunteer, due to illness, vacation, resignation, or leave of absence.
- Represent WAVE Foundation and Newport Aquarium in a professional manner, including dress code, behavior and timeliness.
- Perform in accordance with all protocols, policies and operating procedures of the WAVE Foundation and Newport Aquarium.
- Other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

- Must be 18 years or older, Advanced Open Water certified, CPR and First Aid Certified (No online certifications will be accepted)
- Must complete skills assessments to the satisfaction of the safety standards.
- Must be able to assemble and remove equipment and enter and exit the exhibits unassisted.
- Must complete Diver Emergency Training to the satisfactory of the safety standards.
- Must be able to hear and respond to the Diver Recall.
- Must complete any additional safety training paperwork for safety critical / authorized operator positions and signed off by the DSO.

Requirements:

- Ability to remain on feet for long periods of time (up to 4 hours), climb stairs, bend, stoop, and be able to lift 25lbs.
- Volunteers must notify the Dive Safety Office when taking any prescription medication, including but not limited to narcotics that are a contradiction to diving, driving or operating machinery.
- Diver Medical Form must be current and signed by appropriate medical personnel.
- Wetsuit and booties must be designated to NAQ use only.

NOTE: May involve exposure to inclement weather, dust, potentially dangerous and unpredictable animal species, and potentially dangerous machinery, restraint devices and toxic chemicals and/or drugs. Occasional use of protective clothing or equipment is required e.g. goggles, mask, gloves, and gowns.

Training:

- Complete WAVE orientation and online training.
- Complete Diver training.

Commitment:

- Application fee: \$60; once accepted for position.
- There is a commitment of 18 dive shifts per year; 1 dive shift a month and an additional 6 dive shifts at your discretion. The WAVE Volunteer Manager will monitor your volunteer commitment and evaluate your commitment on an annual basis.
- Volunteers must reschedule missed shifts within 2 weeks. Make up within 30 days or communicated and approved by the DSO.
- If you have no communication with the DSO for 3 consecutive months, you will be removed as a WAVE volunteer diver.

Have fun while inspiring our guests to discover, explore, enjoy, and protect our aquatic world.

Rev 01/2026 WAVE Foundation • Volunteer Office • One Aquarium Way • Newport, KY 41071

NOTE: Scheduling hours after the first day is at the discretion of the volunteer. Volunteers will be required to schedule themselves online at www.myvolunteerpage.com, a WAVE Foundation supported database.