

GEORGIA AQUARIUM

Career Information



What department is this position in?

Animal Training-Pinniped

What is the position's official job title?

Assistant Trainer-Pinniped

Does this position require a college degree?

A degree is required. However, if you have equivalent relevant experience that may be considered in lieu of a degree.

What kind of degree does this position require?

Bachelor's or Higher in Biology or a related field. Mine is in Marine Science-Biology!

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Do you need any certifications outside of a degree for this position?

Yes! We are required to have a SCUBA certification.

What does the average day look like for this position?

A typical day starts with cleaning the animals' habitats and preparing their diets. The remainder of the day is filled with training sessions, including our presentations and encounters, and more cleaning.

Are there any internships that help to get this position?

Yes. Internships involving either animal training or animal husbandry are extremely beneficial in getting this position.

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Is there any way to volunteer or shadow with this position?

Not currently.

What path did you take to get to working at Georgia Aquarium?

One of my first jobs involved caring for horses on farm. From there, I got my degree at the University of Tampa in marine science-biology, and volunteered at an aquarium in their commissary department. After graduating, I worked in education before landing my first animal training position. It was at that job that I fell in love with sea lions and knew I wanted to continue to work with them, which led me to Georgia Aquarium.



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What is your favorite part about working at Georgia Aquarium?

My favorite part is definitely getting to build relationships with each of our animals and seeing their individual personalities.

Is there anything else you want to share about this position?

Make sure to work on your swimming skills! Every trainer is required to pass a departmental swim test, and it is never too early to start preparing. Additionally, this is a very collaborative field, and there is always something new to learn. It is always beneficial to take the opportunity to learn from people with different experiences.