

## Get Involved

# Volunteers Wanted for Sanctuary Programs

## Help Educate the Public and Protect Our Marine Resources and Maritime Heritage

There's a wild ocean place just off the Massachusetts coast that can benefit from your help. Almost the size of Rhode Island, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary stretches between Cape Ann and Cape Cod and is home to an amazing array of wildlife and a diverse collection of shipwrecks. Through research, resource protection and education, sanctuary staff and volunteers work together to protect and enhance our natural and cultural treasures for future generations.

Volunteers make a unique and valuable contribution by expanding contact with local communities and building a sense of stewardship for the sanctuary. Volunteer docent events and presentations increase public awareness and support by helping people learn more about the research and conservation efforts of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary team. Other volunteer projects support the sanctuary in many large and small ways. In return, volunteers gain a better understanding of this exciting ocean world and have an opportunity to make a difference.

We invite individuals with a variety of skills and interests to join our growing volunteer program. Specific openings change from time to time. Find current listings, program news and events, and applications at

<http://stellwagen.noaa.gov/involved/volunteers.html>

For more information about the program, e-mail updates, or to apply for a position, contact:

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TOP: Intern Ambassadors talk to the public at the Woods Hole Climate Fair on Cape Cod, MA.

CENTER: Student Ambassadors from the Ecology Club of the local middle school marched in the Scituate MA St. Patrick's Day parade.

BOTTOM: Children make origami whales as they learn about whale anatomy during *A Child's Sanctuary: Whales in my Backyard* event at the Scituate Town Library.

## Potential Volunteer Opportunities



The Stellwagen Sanctuary Seabird Stewards, a volunteer citizen science team studying seabirds in the sanctuary aboard the Research Vessel *Auk*, partner with National Audubon for the Christmas Bird Count and participate in regular scientific studies during the year in collaboration with Mass Audubon. The resulting data will be used to compare the relative abundance of seabirds over time to help understand populations within the sanctuary and their possible impacts on local ecosystems and as a barometer for other changes in the environment.

**Stellwagen Ambassadors:** Ambassadors share sanctuary information at public events as part of museum, school and library programs, and may give formal presentations and tours to groups.

**A Child's Sanctuary:** Adult volunteers and a cadre of teen Ambassadors support educational events targeting pre-K through upper elementary school students, connecting children and parents to their local sanctuary and offering science, math, art, and language arts content through a real-world context.

**Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC):** Volunteers from non-governmental organizations and the general public serve with government representatives on the council, which is the formal organizational link to the sanctuary's user community.

**Data Gathering:** Volunteers may assist research staff by helping to gather data or fill in specific data gaps by searching the Internet, libraries and archives. Others may help collect scientific data in the field.

**Seabird Steward Program:** Experienced birders who can identify migratory seabirds, are comfortable on the open water, and can follow basic protocol help support research projects in collaboration with Mass Audubon.

**Media Support:** Volunteers may review raw video footage and image archives for exceptional images, digitize older images, and help organize and retrieve images. Volunteer photographers and videographers may contribute publication-quality images and help document programs.

**Liaison / Distribution Support:** Volunteers in various geographic locations may help maintain displays of sanctuary program information and literature.

**Facilities Support:** Volunteers with backgrounds in skilled trades, such as carpentry or vessel maintenance may help on projects to improve and expand sanctuary facilities.

**Educator / Writer:** Volunteers with teaching backgrounds and strong writing skills may help develop curriculum materials for schools and increase educational opportunities on the sanctuary website. Other writers may help develop our regular publications.

**Web Support:** Volunteers may provide assistance to staff who maintain the sanctuary website and other social media outlets.

**Student Projects:** The sanctuary has relationships with certain high schools and universities to offer internships, community service projects and other partnership opportunities.



Volunteers are trained to run educational activities for the public related to sanctuary species, research and protection efforts, including storytelling inside a life-size inflatable North Atlantic right whale as part of a *A Child's Sanctuary* event at the Scituate Town Library.