

The Pigeon Key Marine Education Internship Experience!



While the job will keep you very busy, on days off or in free time there is a lot to do and explore around the island and the rest of the Florida Keys. We find that people who enjoy being outside and partaking in activities we do for similar for work get the most out of the internship. Snorkeling, fishing, and diving are popular island activities!

Free Time Fun

Scuba/ Snorkel: While we do snorkel almost every day for work, many interns and staff members enjoy snorkeling around the island and new places all over the Keys. We also have had many interns get their scuba certification while down here and can recommend a few shops. Always travel with a mask and snorkel on days off, you never know where you'll end up!

Fishing: There are plenty of opportunities to fish here on Pigeon Key, whether you are just learning or are experienced. Some staff members are avid fishermen and spend much of their free time fishing in the both the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean.

Kayak: We have kayaks on the island for staff use and enjoy while exploring the flats on calm days.

Photography: Many of our interns have been interested in photography and editing videos and Pigeon Key is the perfect place to capture images both above and under water. Videos and images captured by interns have been used on our social media accounts.

State Parks: There are 10 state parks in the Florida Keys and each one has something unique to offer. We highly recommend John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, Lignumvitae Key Botanical State Park, Bahia Honda State Park, and Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park.

Beach days: There are many beautiful beaches in the Keys to enjoy on days off. Swim, snorkel, and explore Sombrero Beach, Bahia Honda State Park, or Coco Plum Beach.

Past Intern Projects:

Art Wall Mural: Dana D. (2020) used her love of art and marine biology to create a mural of all the creatures we find around the island. It is located at our touch tanks and used as an education tool.

Videos: Many interns enjoy photography and capturing their adventures around the island. We use many of these videos on our social media and as online teaching tools.

Infographics: Some interns have previous experience with various advertising tools and web editing and these skills are very much appreciated and utilized by our social media team.

Blogs: The foundation has a blog on our website that highlights island updates, environmental issues, and Florida Keys history on a frequent basis. Interns with an interest in writing enjoy adding to the catalog.

4Ocean Beach Clean Up: Folks who work out on Pigeon Key are extremely passionate about the environment and tend to find events that allow to better the Keys and meet like-minded people. Our intern class of 2019 participated in a 4Ocean clean-up event at Bahia Honda State Park. There are many opportunities to get involved in the local community.

New Programs: Many of our programs have come from past intern classes including Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles of South Florida, Invasive Species of South Florida and Endangered Species of the Florida Keys. Interns will have the opportunity to collaborate and create new programming during their time on island.

Citizen Science Projects: Part of the mission here on Pigeon Key is to support research and our interns get the opportunity to help collect data. We have been involved in many citizen-science projects over the years including working with the Bonefish and Tarpon Trust, EarthDive, shark tagging and more.