



# **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

## **Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area**

### **Spring/Summer**

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#### **SEEKING:**

**Volunteers to assist in surveying physical and biological components of rocky intertidal environments on the Boston Harbor Islands. This effort is part of the Park's long-term "vital signs" monitoring program.**

#### **ABOUT THE PARK:**

The Boston Harbor Islands national park area (BOHA) includes 34 islands and peninsulas situated within the large "C" shape of the Greater Boston shoreline. The islands are rich in natural and cultural resources, and are managed by a unique, 13-member Partnership. Visit [BostonIslands.com](http://BostonIslands.com) for more information.

**ABOUT THE PROJECT:** The National Park Service, the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership, and the Northeastern University Marine Science Center have begun developing a long term vital signs monitoring program for rocky intertidal environments in the Boston Harbor Islands and at Acadia National Park. In 2009 researchers and volunteers are conducting the pilot year of sampling on three islands in the outer harbor island cluster. Data will be collected on the physical conditions (e.g. temperature, orientation and topographic variation of substrate) and organisms present in sample plots (e.g. barnacles, algae, snails). The Boston Harbor Islands support substantial rocky intertidal areas that are a critical component of the marine and coastal ecosystems in the Harbor. Long term monitoring will provide information on changes to the marine environment that can be used to assess the effect of factors such as sea level rise, and serve as an early warning to park managers of dramatic shifts in ecosystem structure or function.

#### **DUTIES/WORKING ENVIRONMENT:**

Responsibilities will include: ; accurately recording data onto field data sheets; recording location information using field maps and gps units. Training is provided.

#### **QUALIFICATIONS/PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Previous experience with field survey techniques or intertidal monitoring is helpful but not required. Field work takes place in variable weather conditions and involves small boat travel and hiking over rough, slippery, and variable terrain. Exposure to the elements includes risks associated with outdoor activity, walking over wet rocks and through dense foliage, and transfer from a 21' boat to a small dinghy at sea. Fact sheets about some potential health risks will be provided. A small craft is used to access the islands; boat rides can often be bumpy and landings are sometimes precarious; sure footing and appropriate footwear are necessary. Work is physically demanding and may require carrying 20-40 lbs of equipment in a backpack. Volunteers must be physically able to negotiate uneven terrain and be prepared for several hours of walking, squatting and kneeling in variable terrain in remote locations of the park (knee pads provided). Please be aware that because many of the islands are in remote locations, emergency response time is significantly slower than at mainland locations.

#### **TIME COMMITMENT:**

To be determined upon mutual agreement with project lead researcher (Dr. Jeremy Long) in coordination with Boston Harbor Islands park staff.

#### **OTHER:**

All materials (datasheets, gps, equipment, etc.) will be provided. Volunteers are asked to dress appropriately for variable weather conditions and rugged walking. We strongly recommend wearing covered shoes that can get wet and dirty, long pants, hats, dressing in layers and bringing raingear as appropriate. Remember to also bring water, snacks, insect repellent and sunscreen are recommended. There are no restroom facilities on most islands, please plan accordingly.

#### **TO APPLY OR FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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