

## **Potential Internship Projects at the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History**

Museum Internships include a variety of opportunities to gain experience in collections management, non-profit management, museum operations, environmental and classroom education, curriculum development, and public engagement. The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History is over 100 years old and features educational exhibits and programs for hands-on exhibits for children, families and adults. Their collections include animals, shells, fossils, minerals, and diversity of cultural artifacts of native peoples who resided along the California coast.

Projects areas:

### **Collections Internship (collections)**

Learn about best practices in collections management, including the organization, preservation and digitization of specimens and associated records. Contribute to the accessibility of the Museum's Collections for use and general study by creating and enhancing specimen records. Current projects focus on malacology, geology, and botany, but all natural history related interested are welcome. For those with experience handling museum specimens or objects, there may be opportunities to work with the care and storage of historic specimens.

*Desired qualifications:* knowledge of local natural or cultural history, experience with specimen or museum object handling, data entry experience, photography experience.

### **Science Illustration for Interpretive Signs (education)**

Build your portfolio by illustrating Museum specimens, native flora and fauna for use in interpretive signs both in the Museum and in the Native Plant Garden Learning Center. Work with Museum staff to determine needs and identify compelling interpretive opportunities that would benefit from scientific illustration.

*Desired qualifications:* strong background in science illustration and experience with interpretation of science topics.

### **Science and/or Art Interactive Exhibits Design and Research (education)**

Study visitor dynamics in the Museum and design interactive "Investigation Stations" to enhance visitor experiences, increase engagement, and deepen learning impacts of Museum exhibits. Create new interactive exhibits through a process of prototyping and study of human factors.

*Desired qualifications:* strong background in visual arts and graphic design, experience with interpretation of science topics.

**Please contact Felicia Van Stolk to discuss education-focused projects and  
Collections Specialist Kathleen Aston for a collections internship**  
[felicia@santacruzmuseum.org](mailto:felicia@santacruzmuseum.org) | [kathleen@santacruzmuseum.org](mailto:kathleen@santacruzmuseum.org)

**School Program Enrichment (2-unit projects only, education)**

Learn to teach a school program and develop your skills as an educator. Assess your own teaching and observe programs to survey different teaching approaches.

*Desired qualifications:* experience working with elementary students, coursework or other experience in education and/or natural or cultural history

**Mobile Museum (education)**

Learn about science communication for a broad range of audiences including public outreach. Create a “Mobile Museum” by assembling educational specimens and designing short demonstrations around a theme. Practice educating a public audience by bringing the Mobile Museum to farmer’s markets, beer gardens, and other public gatherings.

*Desired qualifications:* strong background in visual arts and graphic design, background in natural history or related topic, experience with interpretation of science topics  
Personal vehicle required, must be available Wed afternoons and/or Sat mornings.

**Population Data Analysis & Interpretation (education)**

The museum has over twelve years' worth of observational data on species diversity and population counts for Neary Lagoon on the west-side of Santa Cruz. Analyze, interpret, and explore ways to visualize the data in order to increase accessibility and make use of the large data set gathered so far.

*Desired qualifications:* coursework in statistics, familiarity with statistics software.