



New Bedford Whaling Museum Teen Apprentice Program



The New Bedford Whaling Museum Apprenticeship program offers an opportunity to high school students with an interest in a variety of topics, who excel academically and express interest in gaining work and college readiness experience, while earning a competitive wage. The Apprenticeship program will use museum resources as well as those of regional academic and scientific institutions to increase the knowledge base and practical experiences of high school students in New Bedford while enhancing their preparedness to continue their studies in these topics upon entering college.

Over the length of an academic year, and the summer that follows, apprentices will gain a basic understanding of the work of the different departments and will leave the program with an understanding of how a museum functions both in front of and behind the scenes. They will also receive an in-depth education in cetacean biology. In so doing they will learn about a variety of oceanic processes such as currents, upwelling and trophics, and policy issues such as shipping and fishing. They will study local coastal issues, climate change, tectonic processes and the messy topic of marine debris. Time will also be devoted to understanding local fisheries.

During the course of the program teens will meet and learn from a variety of experts, participate in hands-on projects and potentially serve as assistants for on-going monitoring programs coordinated by Museum partners. Just as importantly, students will also develop organizing, problem solving, and team-building skills. They will also be encouraged to think creatively, develop presentation and public interaction skills, and learn how to think on their feet in front of an audience.

Students will be encouraged to write articles about their apprenticeship for their school newspaper, and will contribute to their own Museum blog site. Their writings will also be considered for inclusion into *The Bulletin from Johnny Cake Hill*, the Museum's journal for its membership. Apprentices will be expected to create a personal journal that will allow them the opportunity to track their learning over the course of the program and reflect on their experiences as they happen. Ultimately, students will exit the program much more aware of their city's critical role in US history, and as ocean literate citizens, fully cognizant of how 'the ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected', especially as this concept relates to New Bedford.

The program takes place during two sessions during the academic year and one summer session. The school year sessions will run from September – January and February – May. Students will work from 3:00 – 5:00 during these sessions, four days a week. The summer session will take place over eight weeks from July – August, with students working from 10:00 – 4:00.

Interested students should fill out an application form and return it, and a copy of the most recent report card, by Sept 21, to:

Robert Rocha, Science Director, New Bedford Whaling Museum, 18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford, MA 02740, or to the

Dean of Students / Co-op Coordinator / College and Career Advisor at your school

For further information contact Mr. Rocha, (508) 717-6849 or rrocha@whalingmuseum.org