Outreach and Community Service at Romberg Tiburon Center

Romberg Tiburon Center’s Outreach Program supports our mission of communicating the importance of marine environments and training the next generation of scientists. We share our scientific knowledge through high impact, high value public education and outreach activities. RTC employs a full-time Education and Outreach Coordinator who manages these on- and off-site educational events and programs, including tours, open houses, high school internships, summer teacher interns, guest speaking engagements, and community fairs and festivals. Graduate students (and scientists and staff!) can benefit greatly from gaining experience in translating their research to different audiences, and it’s a great CV builder.

All outreach activities should be coordinated through the Education & Outreach Coordinator. If you know of or are participating in outreach connected to your research that is not on the below list of opportunities, please contact Erin Blackwood. Every relevant outreach event is an opportunity to showcase not only your research, but also Romberg Tiburon Center and San Francisco State University, all of which needs community support (financial and otherwise). Erin can provide you with various marketing materials and other resources, or even assist you at the event if there is enough advance notice. Also, it is important to know about what outreach activities are going on, not only for the purposes of tracking volunteer hours (including those all-important SF Bay Scholarship hours!) and # of people reached, but also to make sure that everything we are doing is aligned with our mission, vision statement, and strategic plan (coming soon).

Also, if you are presenting at a science conference, starting an exciting new research project, or are featured in the media, please let Erin know, so she can share it on our website and with our social media followers!

Want to join them? Pick your favorite social media channels:
https://www.facebook.com/rombergtiburoncenter
https://twitter.com/RTC_SFSU
https://twitter.com/Callie_Copepod
https://www.youtube.com/user/rombergtiburoncenter
http://www.pinterest.com/rtcsfstate/
https://instagram.com/rtcoutreach/

SF Bay Scholarship
Please go to www.rtc.sfsu.edu/grad_studies/grad_support for more info on this scholarship. See the reverse side for outreach opportunities that fulfill SF Bay Scholarship hours. Community service, such as local beach clean-ups or activities that benefit the external community, can also be used. Please contact Erin BEFORE applying for the scholarship regarding your outreach choices. Then, please follow the steps below so that outreach activities can be accurately tracked.

Signing Up and Tracking Hours & Activities
1. View the calendar and sign up at VolunteerSpot at http://vols.pt/apG9ke. You only need to enter your email address.
2. After you have done the event or activity, fill out the Event Notification form at http://bit.ly/1zJ4ZdO (Google Form)

Erin Blackwood, Education and Outreach Coordinator, Bldg 36, Room 213, x83757 or erin70@sfsu.edu
Fall 2015 Outreach Opportunities

Any of these opportunities, except for paid opportunities, can fulfill required outreach/community service hours for the SF Bay Scholarship. Community service must be to the public (i.e. Coastal Cleanup Day, etc.), not internal (i.e. Gene Lab).

Coastal Cleanup Day
Saturday, September 19, 9am-noon. Volunteer at your local beach or waterway to clean up and collect data on trash. If you select a Marin County beach, you get a free BBQ at the Bay Model in Sausalito!

Golden Gate Parks Conservancy Member Event—tentative
Saturday, October 17, 10am-1pm, Rodeo Beach. Bring live organisms to share with attendees (families with children of all ages), ideally related to Rodeo Beach and sandy beach ecosystems.

Bay Area Science Festival Explorer Days
Thursday, October 29, 3-5 pm. RTC will host tours of the labs for small groups of adults and families with children 9 and older. Volunteer to show or talk about your lab, or facilitate the flow of visitors between labs.

Fall Public Forum
Wednesday, November 4, 5-9pm, Bay Conference Center. Help with check-in, ushering guests, serving on the Q&A panel, or other tasks to be determined.

Expanding Your Horizons
Saturday, November 14, at SF State, 8:30am-2:45pm. Teach or lead hands-on STEM activities related to your research for 6th-8th grade girls. Lunch and other goodies provided. Female presenters preferred.

RTC Lab Tours
Occurring on demand throughout the year, tours range from individuals to whole classes (uncommon). Volunteers can speak for a few minutes in their own labs, or lead an entire tour, depending on comfort level.

Walking Tours
Coming soon, walking tours will include the history of the site and relate to our current research, covering the outdoor areas of our site. More information and training will be provided, and paid positions will be available.

Guest Speaker
Various, flexible dates. Talk to students at local high schools, dive clubs, libraries, etc. about your research and career in marine/aquatic science. There may also be opportunities to give talks to distant classrooms online.

Writing Projects
We always need articles for our semiannual Bayside newsletter, and will soon have a regular blog up and running. Write about your research for the public (we can help guide you!)

Other
Additional outreach opportunities such as career fairs, opportunities to teach marine science in teacher workshops or school programs, etc. also come up on a regular basis, and will be posted in RTC weekly emails.

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