Field Station Assistant

**Deadline to Apply:** January 21, 2021  
**Estimated Start Date:** February 15th, 2021

**Application link:** Submit resume, cover letter and one writing sample (an academic essay, journalistic article, blog post, or a series of informative/entertaining social media posts).

**Billion Oyster Project**

*The Billion Oyster Project (BOP) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to restore oyster reefs to New York Harbor through public education initiatives.*

**Our Vision**

A future in which New York Harbor is the center of a rich, diverse, and abundant estuary. The communities that surround this complex ecosystem have helped construct it, and in return benefit from it, with endless opportunities for work, education, and recreation. The harbor is a world-class public space, well used and well cared for—our Commons.

**Our Ethos**

*Restoration through Education*

We believe that restoration without education is fleeting. To ensure the long-term health and productivity of our natural environment we must teach young people to care for, monitor and restore their Harbor.

*Education through Restoration*

We believe that students learn best when applying their studies to a large-scale ecosystem restoration project that challenges them to become active participants and takes them out of the classroom, down to the water’s edge to experience the ecosystem first-hand.

**Our Flagship School**

The Urban Assembly New York Harbor School’s mission is to provide a college-preparatory education built upon New York City's maritime experience that instills in students the ethics of environmental stewardship and the skills associated with careers on the water.
Position Summary

BOP is seeking a capable and enthusiastic educator and communicator to help staff a new storefront education space and adjacent oyster research installations in Williamsburg. The field station assistant will work with a wide range of the public, including teachers and students of all ages as well as neighborhood residents and community scientists. The field station assistant will help the program manager run our oyster monitoring and water quality testing programs, and will design and implement research projects, drawing on both. The candidate will also help develop our field science databases, be responsible for maintaining and updating them, and devise new ways to share them.

Essential Functions

Responsibilities include, but not limited to:

● Activate storefront education space
  ○ greet public and answer inquiries 2-3 days a week (COVID restrictions permitting) ; track visitor numbers
  ○ manage and update outreach materials including window displays and posters
  ○ maintain aquarium including Go-Pro documentation
  ○ attend weekly Williamsburg Field Station planning meetings

● Support field education
  ○ support public ORS (Oyster Research Station) monitoring as well as community reef monitoring sessions (small groups, COVID restrictions permitting)
  ○ work with local schools to train teachers and provide virtual monitoring sessions and field trips
  ○ assist Communications director in developing educational signage for Domino and North First St.

● Support off-season and in-season water quality testing
  ○ sample weekly for pathogens at North Brooklyn sites
  ○ process samples using IDEXX Enterolert system and incubator; oversee lab operation
  ○ work with students, teachers and community scientists to design and implement independent research projects for our annual BOP Symposium
  ○ implement testing for additional parameters TBD

● Implement research:
  ○ track oyster growth and water quality at at Wallabout Channel, North First St. and Bushwick Inlet and work with staff scientist to design and carry out comparative study

● Develop data management and data visualization:
  ○ review and improve data collection and storage procedures for oyster measurement (in coordination with existing ORS protocols) and water quality measurements (existing database [here](#))
  ○ design and implement creative strategies for communicating data
Qualifications

- Ability to connect with people of all ages and backgrounds
- Undergraduate degree with some experience in the natural sciences, environmental activism, outdoor education, or related fields, or 2-3 years related work experience.
- Evidence of strong writing skills—eg, an academic essay, journalistic article, blog post, or a series of informative/entertaining social media posts
- Strong photography and video editing skills, basic graphic design skills, organizational skills and familiarity with spreadsheets and data management
- Willingness to work outdoors in all weather conditions
- Familiarity with small boats a plus

- Salary is commensurate with experience $20-$25 hour
- 25-30 hours/week, February-September 2021, with possible extension depending on funding

*Any person working in the New York City DOE buildings, working with NYC DOE students or who has access to NYC DOE confidential information is required by New York State law to undergo a security clearance, including fingerprints, prior to commencing services. All prospective employees (either working for NYC DOE or for a Vendor) must have a security clearance before starting work. No one can be fingerprinted by the NYC DOE or undergo the security clearance unless they have been added to the organization or agency's PETS (Personnel Eligibility Tracking System) roster.

**Our goal is to be a diverse workforce that is representative, at all job levels, of the communities we serve. We are committed to providing an environment of mutual respect where equal employment opportunities are available to all applicants and teammates without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local laws. Billion Oyster Project believes that diversity and inclusion among our teammates is critical to our success as an organization, and we seek to recruit, develop, and retain the most talented people from a diverse candidate pool.