



THE OUR WORLD-UNDERWATER SCHOLARSHIP
SOCIETY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
Summer 2010

Aquarena Center
Research Internship

Website: <http://www.continuing-ed.swt.edu/aquarena/>

About the Aquarena Center

The Aquarena Center is situated along the headwaters of the San Marcos River and provides the Austin and San Antonio area with the opportunity to discover a natural wonder created by the Edwards Aquifer, a major water resource for Central Texas. Open to the public this environmental education center offers a variety of exhibits focusing on the endangered species of the San Marcos Springs, including the Texas Blind Salamander, San Marcos Salamander, and Fountain Darter, the importance and diversity of wetlands, and the native and exotic species found in this area.

The Aquarium, with an Endangered Species Exhibit, the floating Wetlands Walkway, Glass Bottom Boat Tours and Hillside Nature Trails combine to give visitors a unique experience of the San Marcos Springs and the diversity which it creates. Aquarena Center offers field trips where students can learn through a variety of hands on and interpreter led demonstrations. The Sprint Lake Complex Conference Center provides both meeting and reception space, while the Scientific Dive program offers certified scuba divers a chance to help with habitat conservation.

The Aquarena Research Internship

Based in San Marcos, Texas, this internship will provide an interdisciplinary context for education and research in nature and heritage tourism. Day-to-day operations at Aquarena offer a variety of opportunities for students interested in the practical aspects of the emerging field of environmental education.

The intern's responsibilities will be divided among aquatic maintenance, science diving, boat tours with staff and photo documentation on land and underwater. The intern will be expected to provide his or her own SCUBA equipment (including full wet suit) as well as a completed SCUBA diving medical form and physical, as this internship involves long days of physically demanding work underwater in 71 degree water.

Length of Internship: 6 weeks

Eligibility Criteria:

- Is scuba certification required? Yes, with Advanced certification preferred

- Other skill sets:
 - Marine Biology
 - Photography
 - Other Small boat handling, enthusiasm for field research

Budget

The intern will be given a monthly stipend by the internship sponsor to cover travel to/from site and related living expenses. The internship sponsor will assist in arranging housing. Any expenses that are unapproved by the internship sponsor or are above the monthly stipend will be the responsibility of the intern.

Written Report

Upon completion of the Internship, the recipient will be required to complete a written review of his or her experience.