

Center for
SPORTFISH SCIENCE
& CONSERVATION

Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Undergraduate Volunteer Expectations

The Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation looks for volunteers who are highly motivated and enthusiastic with an eagerness to learn. The CSSC performs exciting field work both inshore and offshore, but there are also important daily tasks that can be very mundane. It is a major team effort to accomplish our goals, and we expect the same level of high motivation from volunteers as we do CSSC staff and students.

Our philosophy for undergraduates volunteering in the lab is that you should try and gain as much experience as possible and be willing to help with numerous tasks. It is important to understand the work you will be doing is part of actual research projects, so we expect high quality work. Additionally, by volunteering with us you will gain insights on what it means and how to become a scientist, which will better prepare you for success in your academic programs. However, we also expect your undergraduate coursework to be your main priority. In other words, volunteering with us should not impede you doing well in your coursework. Finally, volunteering often leads to a paid position, but it is not guaranteed.

Schedule and hours:

Typically, we like you to work a set numbers of hours each week (minimum of 5 hours), and we will ask you to create a schedule of when you will be in each week. This is very important as all the work we will be asking you to do will require training, and therefore we need you to work on a consistent basis.

- **Lab hours (Mon. – Fri):** 8:30 am – 5:00 pm
- **Field hours:** 6:00 am – 7:00 pm
 - Generally all field work will be during the week, which will make it difficult for you to participate because of your classes. However, there may be circumstances where you will be able to participate if the field crew works on a weekend or your class schedule allows during the week.

Other Expectations:

- You will be expected to log the hours you work in the lab and maintain a lab/research notebook because you will be working on grant-funded projects, so taking good daily notes is essential. We will provide a notebook, but we then expect that it will stay at the CSSC when you are done in the lab.
- Lab/field safety: We will go over all lab and field safety procedures with you.
- Field: You will also need to make sure you have proper field attire and footwear (we will discuss these details with you as well).