

## PELAGIC SHARK RESEARCH FOUNDATION

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

PSRF is offering a hands-on shark and ray field research course in the Monterey and Santa Cruz areas.



### COURSE:

PSRF is actively involved in research on the demographics of sharks and rays found in the Monterey and Santa Cruz areas and provides students with hands-on participation in the capture, tagging, study, and reporting of a list of sharks and rays found in the area. The program begins with basic equipment familiarization including boats, motors, and research gear and proceeds to basic animal handling techniques with Leopard Sharks, Guitarfish, Bat Rays, and Skates in the Elkhorn Slough area. At the end of the program, a select few students who show proficiency and high attendance may be offered to continue as a Volunteer with PSRF in the offshore research that includes Blue Sharks, Mako Sharks, Great White Sharks, and Basking Sharks.

### COURSE DATES AND TIMES:

Season is April-November with most activity June-September  
Mon/Tues or Sat/Sun (approx. 2-4 days/week depending on number of participants)  
5-hour workdays (approx.) and start times are dependent on the day's tides and conditions.

### ATTENDANCE:

A minimum of 8 scheduled field trips must be attended.

### GROUP SIZE:

Minimum of 3 to hold the course  
Maximum of 12 (space is limited on some days)

### PREREQUISITES:

Minimum of 18 years of age  
Confident swimmer in both static water and against currents (for self-rescue purposes)  
Ability to work as a team member with clear communications  
Ability to competently handle power equipment, electronics, and small tools  
Ability to work with animals in water, on a boat, and in mud  
Physically fit is required. Activities can include; hoisting, pulling, lifting, and carrying weight as much as 50 lbs. or greater through water and mud.

### COST:

\$400 course fee non-refundable (100% of this money goes directly to the cost of equipment)  
This is a one-time fee for the season, regardless of number of days attended.  
Transportation to/from field sites and meals are not provided. Carpooling from a meeting point may be available to some field locations.

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:

Wetsuit (Surfsuit recommended over Dive suit)

Booties

Gloves optional but recommended

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION:

At the end of the course, participants who successfully complete a minimum of 8 field trips and pass a written test will receive a Field Research Certificate of Completion for the hours they attend. Some participants may be able to use this as field internship credit with some college courses. Students wishing internship credit are encouraged to check with their requirements prior to the course so that PSRF instructors may meet the needed goals during the course to complete your credit requirements.

WAIVER:

PSRF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and conducts all research with full legal permits and licenses. Field research involving Sharks and Rays and operating with boats can be dangerous and participation is at your own risk. PSRF holds no liability to any participants and will require a waiver signed prior to inclusion in the course.

FILING DATE:

Open enrollment throughout the season. Applications being accepted immediately.

CONTACT:

Applicants should contact:

**Sean Van Sommeran**

Executive Director

Pelagic Shark Research Foundation

831-459-9346 office

831-600-5214 cell

psrf@pelagic.org

WWW.PELAGIC.ORG

Santa Cruz California