



**Job Title:** Research Assistant

**Organization:** Ocean Research & Conservation Association, Inc. (ORCA)

**Location:** Vero Beach, FL

**About Us:** ORCA is a non-profit organization that endeavors to protect and restore aquatic ecosystems and the species they sustain through the development of innovative technologies, science-based conservation action, and community education and outreach.

**Job Description:** ORCA is seeking a passionate and dedicated individual to join our team as a Research Assistant. The Research Assistant will play a vital role in supporting our citizen science program and applied science research initiatives.

**Position Description:** The Research Assistant provides technical assistance and support to Citizen Science projects. The position will work with ORCA staff, community volunteers, and external partners to coordinate and conduct the Pollution Mapping Citizen Science Project and Land to Sea Monitoring Project. The candidate will be responsible for recruiting and training citizen scientists, overseeing data collection and analyses, securing funding to support and expand projects, and effectively communicating findings to the public. The Research Assistant is supervised by the Director of Citizen Science & Education.

**Position Responsibilities:**

- Design, plan, coordinate and assist in the field, lab, and office on ORCA's citizen science research and restoration projects and programs
- Maintain a high level of professional expertise in scientific disciplines relevant to assigned projects.
- Train and facilitate community volunteers and/or interns in procedures and protocols specific to projects
- Organize and analyze data collected for research and habitat restoration projects
- Assist in dissemination of protocols and project results through technical reports, peer-reviewed papers, and public presentations
- Assist in securing funding for sustainability and growth of citizen science projects through grant writing, identifying and soliciting sponsors and participating in fundraising events
- Maintain and organize facilities and equipment
- Collaborates with government, non-government, and academic organizations and institutions on research and restoration programs and initiatives.



- Performs other duties as assigned by the Director of Citizen Science & Education or Research Scientists

**Qualifications:**

- Master's degree in environmental or marine science related field or B.S. with at least three years of relevant experience. An emphasis or detailed understanding of the Indian River Lagoon is preferred.
- Strong laboratory analytical skills
- Experience in habitat restoration projects including living shoreline planning, permitting, installation and scientific monitoring strongly preferred
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Strong organizational skills, including ability to prioritize and consistently meet deadlines
- Ability to complete tasks independently and within assigned time frames
- Ability to lift, push or carry a minimum of 50 lbs., work in harsh environments, and operate vehicles (e.g. truck, boat and trailer) preferred
- Boating experience is preferred. Willingness to be trained is required
- Current driver's license required

**Benefits:**

- Salary is commensurate with experience
- Incumbent is eligible for:
  - 401k with company matching,
  - Medical plan,
  - Paid holidays and leave.

**To apply for this position, please send cover letter and CV to Missy Weiss at [mweiss@teamorca.org](mailto:mweiss@teamorca.org)**