# Scientific Computing Volunteer
# Position Description

**Position Title:** Scientific Computing Volunteer
**Department:** Scientific Computing

Come join a team dedicated to the [Academy's mission, vision *and values!*](#) Currently, the Academy has a [new strategic plan](#) including three initiatives – *Hope for Reefs*, *Thriving California*, and *Islands 2030* – that leverage biodiversity science, environmental learning, and collaborative engagement to regenerate fragile ecosystems around the world. Learn more at https://www.calacademy.org/about-us/major-initiatives.

We hope you are inspired by what we do and are excited to contribute to our mission. The Academy is looking for candidates who do great work, and we know they may come from a number of different backgrounds and experiences. We encourage you to apply even if you do not believe you meet every -one of the qualifications for the position.

The candidate must easily be able to work onsite in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. All volunteers are required to have up-to-date COVID-19 vaccination, including receiving a booster shot, as a condition of service, absent qualifying exemptions in accordance with applicable laws. Applicants selected to join the volunteer community at the California Academy of Sciences will be provided the full text of the vaccination policy.

**POSITION SUMMARY**:
Reporting to the Director of Scientific Computing, the Scientific Computing Volunteer is responsible for projects ranging from assisting with research to compute systems and infrastructure maintenance.

Computational projects would fall into one of three categories: Computing infrastructure, collections systems, or research. All of these projects would be technical and involve programming and/or scripting on primarily linux based systems. Research work would be paired with the Director of Scientific Computing and a given researcher - these will vary as research projects start up or complete, and have a wide range of technical requirements. Collections projects would involve web, database, programming (primarily Python) and scripting. Infrastructure would require Python, Ansible, shell/ssh, Linux, and other technologies.

With increased commitment, it will be possible to pair with researchers on current publication oriented projects, including genomic work and population modeling.

**POSITION DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**
To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily.
Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable persons with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

- Assist staff in completing a wide range of projects
- Follow instructions and protocols around data security and safety
- Other duties as assigned

**REQUIRED COMMITMENT:**

Scientific Computing Volunteers are asked to make an overall commitment of at least 40 hours initially, consisting of at least 6 hours per week, completed during weekdays, 9am-4pm. It is strongly preferred that the volunteer work would be completed onsite, however there may be opportunities to complete projects remotely. After the initial 40 hour project is complete, further scheduling flexibility may be possible.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

The qualifications listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required or preferred.

**EDUCATION and/or EXPERIENCE:**
- Be 18 years of age or older
- Experience in any of the following: Linux, Python, bash, C++, AWS, Powershell, windows, "command line", R, SQL, java, git, docker.

**SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:**
- A positive, cooperative, and respectful attitude
- Able to read and interpret documents such as safety rules, operating/maintenance instructions, and procedure manuals, including materials posted online
- Able to communicate with staff and other volunteers effectively

**WORKING ENVIRONMENT:**

Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. The physical demands described above must be met by a volunteer docent to successfully perform the essential functions of the position. While performing the duties of this position, the volunteer is required to sit, use a computer and communicate with others. The position also demands walking on concrete floors, climbing stairs, tolerating high noise levels, and extensive public speaking in noisy settings. Volunteers must be able to perform repetitive motions 90% of the time.