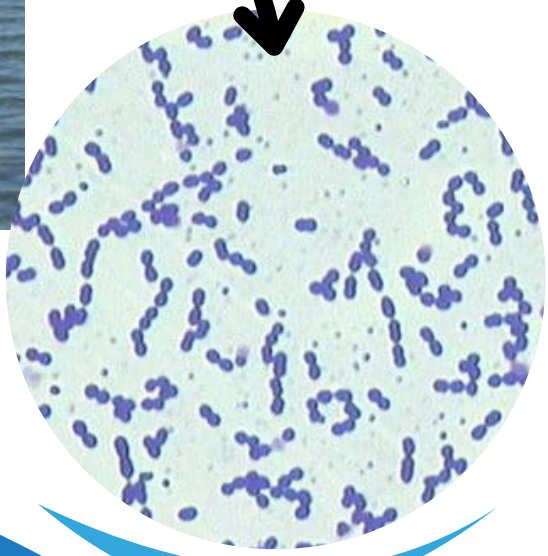
PORT TOWNSEND MARINE SCIENCE CENTER

B.E.A.C.H. Volunteer

BEACH volunteer Diane Baxter takes a BEACH water sample at Fort Worden State Park.

The Beach Environmental Assessment, Communication & Health (BEACH) is a nationally funded EPA program that ensures our waters are safe to swim. From Memorial Day through Labor Day, Department of Ecology scientists, County health officials, and local BEACH partners sample public beaches for bacterial contamination at high-use beaches. PTMSC volunteers sample at Fort Worden State Park.



Enterococcus
An illness-causing fecal bacteria that inhabits the intestine, but can cause inflammation and blood infection if introduced elsewhere in the body.

PTMSC volunteers take weekly water samples at Fort Worden State Park and deliver them to the Jefferson County Public Health Office (next door to the QFC in Port Townsend).

Samples are tested for enterococcus bacteria. High enterococcus levels are linked to swimmer illness. Information collected each week helps health officials issue swimming advisories and keep the public safe and informed.

Volunteer Responsibilities:

- Collect water samples from Fort Worden State Park.
- Fill out field and chain of custody forms to accompany samples.
- Complete data entry in DOE database.
- Communicate schedule changes to PTMSC staff.
- Deliver samples to Jefferson County Public Health by noon on Mondays.

Time Commitment

1-3 hours per week, Monday mornings.

Training

Training is required before working independently. Prospective volunteers will shadow an experienced volunteer or staff member to learn the sampling and data entry protocol.

Age Requirement

Volunteers in the BEACH program must be 18+. Minors may accompany a supervising adult.

Volunteers in this role must...

- Be reliable and be able to maintain a regular schedule
- Have a vehicle and be willing to travel to and from Fort Worden State Park and the Jefferson County Public Health Office.
- Complete a volunteer orientation.
- Pass a background check

Supplies needed:

All sampling tools provided.
Boots or waders (if you don't want to get wet)

APPLY NOW!

ptmsc.org/volunteer/

QUESTIONS?

Contact Hillary Sanders
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