VOLUNTEERS FOR TERN ISLAND FIELD STATION, SUMMER/FALL 2011 SEASON

Aloha!

We are currently seeking applicants to fill four biological volunteer positions and one maintenance volunteer position at Tern Island Field Station, Hawai‘i. We are currently accepting applications for the following periods: mid-June through mid-December; mid-June through mid-September; mid-September through mid-March; and mid-September through mid-December.

Tern Island Field Station is located within French Frigate Shoals Atoll, part of Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, which is in turn part of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. US Fish & Wildlife Service administers Tern Island Field Station, but we often partner with NOAA/NMFS staff, the State of Hawai‘i, university researchers, and/or native Hawaiians. Albatross, boobies, tropicbirds, frigatebirds, noddis and terns, Hawaiian monk seals, and Hawaiian green sea turtles are some of the species present on this remote island.

Biological Volunteers at Tern focus on seabird monitoring and banding, invasive species control, marine trash collection, cargo preparation, and various other duties (such as cooking and cleaning) required for life on a remote island. Roughly 50% of the time is spent in wildlife management, about 25% in maintenance/logistics/weed pulling, and 25% other activities, but assignments will vary depending on current management and research needs. All volunteers in the Monument are offered a unique opportunity for hands-on wildlife experience, but must be willing to do whatever work needs to be done.

The Maintenance Volunteer at Tern focuses on building, maintenance, repair, cleaning, logistics and other activities required to keep the facilities operating. Most work is maintenance and repair of electrical, plumbing and structural systems, but you will also get the chance to participate in biological surveys as part of the team. Working on a remote island means having to make due with limited equipment, supplies, and time; this position requires both technical expertise as well as great troubleshooting skills. Like Biological Volunteers, the Maintenance Volunteer must be willing to do whatever work needs to be done.

Tern is an extremely isolated island with limited contact with the outside world – limited phones and email, mail every 5+ weeks, with limited availability of fresh food. Tern Island is only one kilometer long; the other islands in the atoll are smaller. Volunteers should be able to work well with a small team in a professional and safe manner, for long work hours six days/week in the sun, and be flexible on work assignments. Due to the remoteness of the atoll, safety is a major factor for everyone. Alcohol is not permitted on Tern.

Tern Island volunteers work hard, get dirty very often, occasionally are stressed, but gain a unique and wonderful experience. The opportunity is available for students, retirees, those seeking wildlife or remote island work experience, researchers, and others. Let us know your goals for your experience on island, and we will work together on them, if within the scope of current work.
For more information, or to submit an application, please email both PMNMLogistics@fws.gov and paula_hartzell@fws.gov. Thank you for your interest in volunteering at Tern Island!

*USFWS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the State of Hawai‘i, in consultation with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), cooperatively manage the lands and waters within the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, encompassing all of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.