



Island Dolphin
Care

Hello from Island Dolphin Care, Inc.!

Island Dolphin Care, Inc.
150 Lorelane Place
Key Largo, FL 33037 USA
Phone: 1-305-451-5884
Fax: 1-305-453-5399

Thank you for your interest in our internship programs. Island Dolphin Care, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that offers swim programs with dolphins at Dolphins Plus for children, adults, and families coping with various developmental, physical, and emotional challenges. Our philosophy is to provide a recreational program, which focuses on the emotional and physical well being of the participant and his/her family. Our programs feature educational, recreational, and motivational activities to assist the participants in reaching their fullest potential.

Enclosed is an application form for the Island Dolphin Care, Inc. Internship Program. Please return it as soon as possible. We request that interns plan to stay for a period of 4-8 weeks. The longer one can stay as an intern, the more responsibilities and opportunities are available to the participant.

Our interns keep an anecdotal record of each child's behaviors during the daily interactions with the dolphins and therapists. Interns also assist and/or observe during classroom and water sessions, prepare and cleanup classrooms, provide language translation for families and work with children, siblings and other family members doing various art or recreational activities. Interns assist in getting out the materials necessary for the daily activities, so that the lessons and activities flow smoothly. They insure the child gets into the water fully prepared and on time.

Please understand that your internship is an opportunity to learn from, and assist the therapy team and participating families. There is no guarantee that an intern will swim with or be in the water with dolphins at any time.

You may contact Mrs. Gretchen Thomasson, Internship Coordinator, regarding the status of your request.

You can access our website at:

<http://www.islanddolphincare.org>

or e-mail any questions to: internship@islanddolphincare.org

Again, thank you for your interest. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Thomasson
IDC Therapist/Internship Coordinator

INTERNSHIP CRITERIA AND INFORMATION: Island Dolphin Care, Inc. (IDC) allows qualified individuals the opportunity to conduct research, observe and assist dolphin-assisted therapy through a non-paying internship program. Candidates must meet the following requirements:

1. **Must be at least 21 years of age, and enrolled in or a graduate of a college or university.** (Priority is given to interns who have experience, or are studying, in the health sciences fields...special education, psychology, speech/language, physical therapy, etc.)
2. The internship shall be at least 1 month in length.
3. Application packets must have all required information, including references before being considered for the program.
4. Island Dolphin Care, Inc. staff members must approve applications.
5. We may need to contact the applicant and/or the references for additional information regarding the internship program.

***Candidates interested in conducting research during their internship must note this in their application and discuss their research plans with Gretchen Thomasson prior to scheduling their internship. Additionally, research projects will not be the priority of the interns. All candidates must understand that intern responsibilities assigned by IDC staff are their priority, and must be their primary focus. Approved research projects will be unobtrusive and observational in nature. Interns are not allowed to train or feed the dolphins and are not permitted to do therapy with children in the classroom or in the water. IDC tries to give interns a "behind the scenes" look as much as possible.**

***If your internship is intended to fulfill requirements for university credit, we will work with universities or colleges to assure that your work is worthy of receiving credit. Requirements of internship for credit must be discussed with our team.**

***Island Dolphin Care (IDC) rents an apartment for the benefit of the participants in the IDC Internship Program. The apartment is a three-bedroom unit, is fully furnished (including bed sheets/linens), has a kitchen with all necessary equipment, and a washer and dryer for laundry.**

***Cost: the fee for the apartment will be \$15.00 dollars per day. (Apartment rental fees are not refundable) Please reserve in advance (see reservation form) and pay for in full upon arrival at IDC. You will need to pay a deposit of half of your housing cost in order to reserve your internship position and housing. This amount will be determined upon your acceptance into the program. There will also be a \$10.00 dollar key deposit, which will be returned to you at the end of your stay. (Please note that participation in the apartment rental is not mandatory or required however also note that finding alternative living situations (apartment or house rentals) nearby at reasonable cost is very difficult. If you are interning during hurricane season, and are evacuated at any time, you are responsible for all expenses including hotel, food and transportation costs.**

CONFIDENTIALITY: Families, children, and adults come to IDC programs to feel better about themselves and their ongoing medical, emotional, or neurological conditions. They come to have fun, to become motivated to keep trying new tasks, and to become educated about how to help themselves and/or their child learn how to deal with difficult obstacles in their lives. IDC clients understand that we respect their right of confidentiality. The following rules exist so that we can insure this right:

1. Interns are encouraged to read each client's application and background history, but files are not to be taken from the classroom. When taking notes, do not use the family or client's last name or any other identifying information.
2. Interns are not permitted to take photographs of the clients unless they have permission from the client, family, and Island Dolphin Care, Inc. Any approved photos may not be used in reports, books, journals, or disseminated information.
3. IDC recommends interns ask questions about a client's progress or any educational/behavioral intervention that was developed. Interns may only discuss the client's case and intervention process with the staff of IDC at appropriate times. The cases should not be discussed in the community or any place that may jeopardize the client's right for confidentiality. The Dolphins Plus staff are experts on the dolphins' behaviors and the intern can talk freely to them about any dolphin related questions. When discussing a case with an intern's professor, the intern must identify the client by first name only.

No information regarding confidential client information, including client phone numbers and addresses, may be taken when an intern completes his/her internship, without express written permission of management.

RESEARCH CONDITIONS: Research developed by Island Dolphin Care, Inc. remains the property and ownership of Island Dolphin Care, Inc. and may not be taken when an intern completes his/her internship.

***A student intern can design a research project upon approval of the IDC and Dolphins Plus staff; it must be non-intrusive towards the client and/or dolphins and must be discussed with Gretchen Thomasson prior to acceptance into the internship**

program. Research will be performed under the supervision of the IDC and Dolphins Plus staff. Any article that is published must recognize IDC as co-authors. A draft of the article must be sent to IDC before being submitted.

INTERN RESPONSIBILITIES AND RULES: Each intern will be assigned to specific families enabling the intern to focus on one to three cases per week.

CLASSROOM: The classroom component is an important part of IDC's therapeutic process. The clients begin to try new tasks, develop coping strategies, and begin to feel more positively about their abilities while the families observe and participate. In the classroom, an intern will watch and assist the therapists working with the child and his/her family. Interns take notes daily on behavioral/emotional changes or reactions.

*Interns assist in preparing materials necessary for activities in the classroom. The interns also support the child's attempts with positive comments and non-verbal praise. The interns help to prepare the child for water, i.e. wet suit or flotation device.

NOTE: Any questions/comments about the therapeutic intervention must be addressed to the therapists after the session, when the family is not in the vicinity. The intern is involved in the educational/recreational/& motivational activities as an assistant to the therapist.

*An intern translating for the therapist must keep the translation simple, using the terminology/philosophy of IDC. Island Dolphin Care, Inc. is a recreational, educational, and motivational program. **Island Dolphin Care is not a medical treatment program.** Hands-on massage therapy techniques are not permitted.

DOLPHIN THERAPY: Educational strategies learned in the classroom are reinforced on the platform and in the water. The intern may or may not be permitted on the platform. The intern may serve as an interpreter, will have materials available for the therapist, and reinforce the positive responses the clients produce. An intern will take notes while observing the therapy session.

*The most important responsibilities an intern has on the platform is helping the therapist and supporting the client. Socializing while on the platform is not permitted.

*Interaction with family members must be on a professional basis and done during work-day hours, unless approved by IDC staff. If a family invites an intern to spend time outside of work, the intern must ask the therapists first if it is appropriate.

*If a family brings alcohol to the facility for a birthday party or on the last day of their stay as a gesture of gratitude, neither intern nor staff is permitted to drink the alcohol.

*Interns may have their own areas of specialty and interests, but are not permitted to give advice to families. Interns must follow IDC therapists' intervention strategies and program philosophies. The therapists at IDC are special educators and clinical social workers who develop intervention strategies. ***Island Dolphin Care, Inc.'s programs are recreational, motivational, and educational in nature. We are not a medical facility.***

*Interns must attend a Dolphins Plus briefing to learn about dolphin behavior, anatomy, and how to swim with dolphins.

*No intern will remove Island Dolphin Care, Inc. property without written permission from Management. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Materials, equipment and tools
- Property owned by the Island Dolphin Care, Inc. or its employees
- Confidential literature including technical, quality control or client information
- Computer disks, tapes and other storage media
- Information identified as proprietary.

Removal of or attempts to remove corporation property without permission can be grounds for disciplinary action.

*Island Dolphin Care, Inc. expects interns to avoid activities that create conflicts of interest with their responsibilities to this corporation. Interns have an obligation to refrain from activities, which conflict or interfere with IDC business. After business hours, you continue to be a representative of Island Dolphin Care, Inc. **Your internship is an opportunity to work and learn at our unique facility. There is no guarantee that you will swim or work with dolphins at any specific time during your internship.**

PERSONAL CONDUCT

1. Interns must take no action or work in any manner that may cause injury to themselves, fellow interns, employees or clients.
2. Interns must not do anything to interfere with other interns or employees abilities to complete their responsibilities. **Interns may not contradict or interfere with therapist directives during classroom or water sessions.**
3. Interns must treat other interns, employees, and clients with respect and courtesy.
4. Fighting/roughhousing/horseplay is prohibited and is subject to disciplinary action.
5. Gambling of any kind on Island Dolphin Care property is strictly prohibited.

- 6. Drinking alcoholic beverages on Island Dolphin Care property is strictly prohibited.
- 7. Illegal drug use or trafficking is strictly prohibited.

Application for Internship

Date: Birthdate:
Applicant Name: Nickname:
Address:

Phone #: Fax #:
E-Mail Address: Emergency Contact:
(Name, Phone # & Relationship)

What is your educational background?

___ Enrolled in college. Please give the name of the college and your major:

___ College graduate. Please give the name of the college and degree earned:

___ Other: Please specify:

Languages spoken:

Do you have any physical, emotional, or medical conditions that would prevent you from performing the required duties of an intern? If yes, please describe:

Have you been hospitalized for any of the above? If yes, please describe:

Briefly describe how you were hoping to spend your time as an intern, and what you hope to learn by interning: (If you are interested in conducting research during your internship, please describe your research plans below. Internship responsibilities assigned by IDC staff must be first priority. All research projects must be approved prior to acceptance in the program.)

When would you like to intern at our facility? Please list two different time periods when you would be available to intern. (Note, program opens in March and ends in Mid-November. Closed December through March)

First choice:

Second choice:

How long would you like to stay? (Internships are limited to 6 weeks.) Are you flexible with this date?

Please indicate the names of two individuals who will be sending letters of recommendation on your behalf. (Professional, scholastic, etc.):

Have you ever been arrested? If yes, please describe reason:

Have you ever been convicted of a crime? If yes, please describe reason:

Please describe your interest in dolphin-assisted therapy and include a short autobiography:

Do you understand that Island Dolphin Care does not guarantee that you will work with or swim with the dolphins at any specific time?

Please describe any volunteer work, special awards received, or applicable work experience you have participated in:

Please include a photo along with your application. Feel free to include any other information, which will help us to make our selection, such as transcripts, resumes, or related experiences.

We look forward to hearing from you and wish you the best of luck!

CONFIDENTIALITY/NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT

When you begin your internship with Island Dolphin Care, Inc., you will have access to information that the corporation considers confidential. This includes proprietary information, client information and intellectual property to which the corporation holds rights.

The purpose of this agreement is to remind you of this obligation and to put it into force. This document is intended to help you understand the nature of your obligation and that it is a continuing one. It is not intended to cast any doubt whatsoever on your integrity or reliability. If you have any questions prior to signing this document, please contact our Internship Coordinator, Gretchen Thomasson.

Island Dolphin Care, Inc., neither Dolphins Plus, Inc. nor any other related agencies can control circumstances beyond their control, such as weather, acts of God, and illness of the dolphins and/or children. Island Dolphin Care reserves the right to cancel any reservation or modify the internship length of any intern that does not meet our program criteria as determined by our therapists. As such, it is possible that internships may have to be canceled due to such circumstances. In any such event, neither Island Dolphin Care, Inc. nor Dolphins Plus, Inc. shall be responsible for reimbursement of related costs and expenses incurred by the child, the family and/or third parties. Such resulting costs and expenses shall be incurred at the risk of the child and his/her family and third parties.

In the event that you need to contact us, please call Island Dolphin Care (305) 451-5884. If the office is closed, leave a message and we will return your call.

PLEASE NOTE: Island Dolphin Care strongly advises that all United States recommended childhood immunizations be given to all participants in this program prior to participation. We will gladly provide you with a copy of all recommended vaccines prior to your participation. If for some reason you have not received one or more of the recommended vaccines, we cannot guarantee that you will not be exposed to the illness that the contraindicated vaccines protect against. Although this is extremely unlikely, it is theoretically possible. Please be aware that we do make every effort to make sure that all of our employees and staff are fully immunized; however we cannot legally mandate all employees and participants be vaccinated. By signing this document, you acknowledge that you understand and accept the associated risks.

I attest that I have read the aforementioned document and that I understand and can abide fully by these rules and conditions. I understand that my signature signifies that I will follow Island Dolphin Care's philosophies, rules of confidentiality, responsibilities, and research commitment.

Intern Name (Please Print)

Intern Signature

Dated