



**Title:** Marine Science Instructor

**Reports to:** Education Manager

**Employee Classification:** Temporary/Seasonal, Non-Exempt, Hourly

**Hours:** 20-30 hours/week, flexible schedule with some weekends and evenings

**Location:** Monterey Bay Region (Moss Landing, Monterey, Salinas, Santa Cruz)

**Term:** September 2025 – December 2025 (ideal start date September 10th)

**Wage:** \$23-25/hour based on experience, 20-30 hours per week

**Deadline:** Open until filled; seeking to fill ASAP.

## About the Western Flyer Foundation

In 1940, writer John Steinbeck and marine biologist Ed Ricketts chartered the sardine fishing boat *Western Flyer* for a six-week trip to Mexico's Gulf of California. Their journey inspired *Sea of Cortez* (1941) and later *The Log from the Sea of Cortez* (1951), cementing the boat as a symbol of science, storytelling, and friendship.

Decades later, after the *Western Flyer* was nearly lost to time, marine geologist John Gregg purchased and restored the vessel. Today, the *Western Flyer* serves a new purpose as a floating classroom and research platform operated by the Western Flyer Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission: "To stir curiosity through marine research, education, and a blend of science and art inspired by John Steinbeck, Ed Ricketts, and their journey on the *Western Flyer*."

Our hands-on oceanography programs pair classroom lessons with day trips at sea, introducing students to marine science, research technologies, and the rich literary and ecological heritage of Monterey Bay. Onboard, students collect and analyze data using tools like a CTD profiler, ROV, echosounder, and plankton nets—all while immersed in the story of the *Western Flyer*. For more information about the Western Flyer Foundation, visit [www.westernflyer.org](http://www.westernflyer.org).

## Position Summary

We're seeking a part-time Marine Science Instructor to support our Fall 2025 education programs. You'll lead engaging marine science lessons in classrooms and aboard the *Western Flyer*, help facilitate logistics, and be part of a small, mission-driven team. Expect dynamic and

fast-paced days on the water (1–3 day trips per week), engaging work with college, high school, and middle school students, and a highly collaborative environment.

The ideal candidate has experience teaching, a strong grounding in marine science, and is confident working on a boat. You're passionate about education and science communication, adaptable, and enthusiastic about connecting people to the ocean through science and the arts.

### Responsibilities and Scope:

- Facilitate dynamic interdisciplinary marine science programs for groups of 15–30 students (middle school through college)
- Contribute to docked and at-sea programs as well as special events and outreach
- Supervise rotations and instruction of small groups (5–15 students) in the use of scientific equipment aboard the *Western Flyer*, facilitating basic analysis and data interpretation
- Assist with program logistics including but not limited to setup/cleanup of teaching materials and data entry
- Prioritize safety aboard the vessel by following and enforcing protocols and working closely with program and vessel staff
- Support the Education Manager with scheduling, prep, and communication with partner organizations
- Jump in where needed—as part of a small team, flexibility, problem-solving, and a “can-do” attitude are essential

### Qualifications

#### Required

- Bachelor's degree in marine or environmental science, a related field, or education with a science focus; or equivalent experience
- Experience teaching or leading groups in a science, outdoor education, or interdisciplinary (science-art) setting
- Demonstrated understanding of and ability to teach and/or interpret basic marine, environmental, and atmospheric science concepts, with openness to integrating humanities and the arts to deepen learning and engagement
- Knowledge and familiarity with best practices in teaching inquiry-based science
- Effective reading, verbal, and written communication and presentation skills
- Strong organizational and classroom management skills



- Ability to take initiative and work with appropriate supervision to reliably meet goals and objectives
- Comfortable working on boats and in outdoor conditions
- Ability to lift 30 lbs, stand for 3 hours, and move safely up and down vessel ladders
- Flexible availability, including some weekends and variable weekly schedules
- Commitment to safety, equity, diversity and accessibility in education

**Preferred:**

- Spanish language fluency
- Experience operating or assisting with scientific instruments (ROVs, plankton nets, etc.)
- Prior experience with community college or high school students
- Familiarity with Monterey Bay marine ecosystems and oceanography

## **Salary and Benefits**

- \$23–25/hour, depending on experience
- 20–30 hours/week from September to December 2025
- Some evening and weekend work required
- No benefits (seasonal/temporary position)

## **How to Apply**

Please email a resume and brief cover letter to [rials@westernflyer.org](mailto:rials@westernflyer.org) with the subject line “Marine Science Instructor.”

We’re reviewing applications on a rolling basis and hope to fill the position quickly. No phone calls, please.

## **Diversity and Inclusion**

The Western Flyer Foundation is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace that reflects the communities we serve. We strongly encourage people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, veterans, and individuals with disabilities to apply.

We value the unique perspectives and lived experiences that each team member brings to our mission and are committed to creating a welcoming and equitable environment where all individuals can thrive.

