SAMPLE LEARNING GOALS: SCIENCE

Mystic Aquarium Fish & Invertebrate Husbandry (Cold Water Aquarist Intern)

Professional Objectives

Objective: To facilitate research on the development of a new exhibit with co-existing species at Mystic Aquarium.

Activities and Resources:

• To research local species of the Long Island Sound including their ideal water quality, potential predators or prey, possible toxicity and physical traits.
• Research local sponge species as the base of the exhibit, including scientific and husbandry aspects.
• Develop (and present) a proposal, including photos, cited resources, and an explanation of the species of the exhibit and how it depicts the boulder reef of Long Island Sound.
• Replace existing tank and stock with Long Island Sound species.

Evidence:

• Include a list of citations from scientific journal articles that describe each species habitat, physical properties, and chemical properties.
• Include original photos and descriptive captions depicting each selected species.
• Write up a report including information on each individual species, explaining how they co-exist in the Long Island Sound exhibit and in their natural ecosystem.
• Include formal presentation and report of original project as presented to the Department of Fish and Invertebrates at Mystic Aquarium.

Objective: To learn proper maintenance of the discovery lab touch tank.

Activities and Resources:

• Maintain the filtration devices used to keep the exhibit clean.
• Inspection of the exhibit, by checking the water temperature, chiller temperature, UV light, and protein skimmer to be properly functioning.
• Routinely cleaning the algae along the glass as well as fingerprints, debris and other material that hinders the aesthetic appeal of the tank.

Evidence:

• Include a step by step manual, for future interns, on how to properly maintain this tank.

Duties include:

• Scuba diving in off-site locations to collect species and record population data
• Clean and maintain Discovery Touch Tank
• Attend weekly intern educational meetings
• Participate in weekly staff meetings
• Educate the public visiting the Aquarium
• Research new possibilities for species introduction, new exhibits

Internship Evaluation Methods (how your supervisor will evaluate your performance)

• Constant contact with my supervisor throughout the day
• Communication via e-mail and telephone calls
• Completion of university provided evaluation forms

Internship work days/hours

• Start date: Tuesday, September 8th
• Tues, Wed, Thursday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
• Days and times are subject to change weekly, but hours will total 200 total.