**PESPENI LAB *Volunteer Application Form***

**Name: Date:**

**Email:**

**Year/Major/Minor: GPA:**

**Expected graduation date:**

**Availability Start date:**

Monday Hours\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Tuesday Hours\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Wednesday Hours\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Thursday Hours\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Friday Hours\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Relevant courses:**

General Position Description:

Our lab is run by Dr. Melissa Pespeni and is located in rooms 324/326 in the Marsh Life Sciences Building at the University of Vermont. The work of the lab focuses on understanding the genetic and developmental mechanisms that allow organisms, particularly marine invertebrates, to persist in diverse environmental conditions. Our lab is made up of students, researchers, and volunteers.

A volunteer position in our lab is ideal for individuals who are motivated hard workers, who are interested in research experience, and who may plan to pursue a graduate degree or a career in biology. Volunteers will work on task-oriented projects. They can require long hours doing repetitive tasks. Please think carefully about whether or not this position is right for you.

We are asking for a time commitment from our volunteers of a minimum of 6-10 hours per week. Volunteers may be asked to perform tasks associated with the regular functioning of the lab, including cleaning aquarium tanks, processing samples, conducting literature searches, cleaning and organizing lab space, entering data, and web-based projects. Please keep in mind that although this is an unpaid position we can offer you the experience of working in a unique environment with a fun group of people.

\*\*All students must volunteer with the Pespeni lab for AT LEAST one semester before they are eligible to apply for research credit with the Pespeni Lab. \*\*All volunteers must adhere to the safety rules of the lab at all times.

**To complete your application, please answer the following questions and attach a copy of your resume.**

1. What attracted you to this lab? Is there a particular aspect of our work that interests you?
2. Why have you chosen to volunteer with us? What goal(s) do you want to have accomplished by the end of the position?
3. What have you enjoyed most about previous work/volunteer opportunities?
4. Tell us about any particular skills, hobbies, or interests you have. What do you believe is the most important thing you can offer our lab?
5. Tell us about your lab experience and/or any related positions.