**Name: Date:**

**Email:**

**Year/Major/Minor: Expected graduation year:**

**Relevant courses:**

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

**Days/Times Available: Start date:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
|  |  |  |  |  |

General Position Description:

Our lab is run by Dr. Melissa Pespeni and is operated across several rooms in the Marsh Life Sciences Building at the University of Vermont and through virtual meeting spaces. The work of the lab focuses on understanding the mechanisms that allow organisms, particularly marine invertebrates, to persist in diverse environmental conditions. Our lab is made up of PhD and MS students, postdocs, technicians, undergraduate researchers, and lab volunteers.

A volunteer position in our lab is ideal for individuals who are motivated, hard-working, interested in research experience, and who may plan to pursue a graduate degree or a career in biology. Volunteers will work on detailed, task-oriented projects that require utmost care and attention. Please think carefully about whether or not this position is right for you.

We ask for a time commitment from our volunteers of a minimum of 5-10 regularly scheduled hours per week. Volunteers perform tasks associated with the regular functioning of the lab, including cleaning aquarium tanks, feeding animals, making sea water, sorting, staging, or sexing animals for experiments, removing pest species in copepod cultures, cleaning and organizing lab spaces, and assisting with experiments when needed. Volunteering in the lab is a great way to learn about the animals, their care, ecology, and natural history, the experiments going on in the lab, and the gaps in knowledge where you could contribute. Volunteering and attending lab meetings are an entry point for the potential to be involved in research projects or to conduct independent research. Please keep in mind that although this is an unpaid position, we offer you the experience of working in a unique research environment with an enthusiastic group of people and potential to generate new knowledge.

\*\*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.

1. What attracted you to this lab? Is there a particular aspect of our work that interests you?
2. Why would you like to volunteer in a biology research lab? 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.
6. The Pespeni lab is committed to increasing diversity in the sciences and creating an inclusive, equitable, and supportive environment in which to create new knowledge. What does diversity mean to you and what are the ways in which you would contribute to the diversity of perspectives and lived experiences represented in the lab?