



**Bahamas Marine EcoCentre
Accepting Applications for the
Alf Thompson
Memorial Scholarship**

**Intern at the Bimini Biological
Field Station, 'Shark Lab',
June 20-July 20, 2020**



Work and live at the Bimini Biological Field Station with shark and marine biology research scientists, graduate students and other interns from around the world. If you are interested in learning more about shark research and the conservation of the ocean's ecosystems then please apply for this unique opportunity!

Open to motivated Bahamians ages 20 – 26. Scholarship covers expenses for travel, food and lodging during the four-week internship.

The intern program is made possible by the Alf Thompson Memorial Scholarship, offered through Bahamas Marine EcoCentre and the Bimini Biological Field Station Foundation, both non-profit organizations promoting awareness, conservation and respect for the Bahamian environment (www.bahamas-marine-ecocentre.org; www.miami.edu/sharklab).

**Information and applications available at
<http://www.bahamas-marine-ecocentre.org/education/>**

OR

info@bahamas-marine-ecocentre.org

**Deadline for submitting applications: Feb 5 2020.
Announcement of awards: March 15, 2020**



Alf Thompson Memorial Scholarship (ATMS)

HISTORY:

The Alf Thompson Memorial Scholarship (ATMS) was initiated in 2011 to honor the passing of Alf Thompson (Nov 16, 2010), a Bahamian trained in engineering and the sciences. The first award enabled a Bahamian student from Barretarre, Exuma, to participate in an eight-week summer internship at the Kennedy Space Center, Florida. The following year, two Bahamian students from New Providence were awarded this scholarship at the Kennedy Space Center. In 2013, two students interned for eight weeks at the Bimini Biological Field Station, also known as the Shark Lab on South Bimini. This will be the sixth year that Bahamian students will be given the opportunity to intern at this facility. Initial funding for the award came from donations to Bahamas Marine EcoCentre (BME, formerly The Danguillecourt Project) in memory of Alf Thompson.

GOAL:

The intent of the 20120 ATMS program is to provide Bahamians with the opportunity to experience hands-on research at the Bimini Biological Field Station (BBFS). This will include learning about various research techniques in the disciplines of population demographics and dynamics, molecular and behavioral ecology, bioenergetics, sensory biology and physiology. The expectation is that the internship experience will motivate students to further their studies and ultimately pursue careers in these fields.

Bahamas Marine EcoCentre and BBFS anticipate awarding the ATMS on an annual basis. The following criteria govern award of the ATMS and may be subject to change:

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

A four-week internship is offered for qualifying candidates to carry out research at the BBFS, South Bimini, Bahamas. Successful applicants will live with research scientists and fellow international interns learning about marine and shark biology, field research techniques and conservation of our treasured Bahamas marine ecosystems.

Throughout the internship you will be asked to help with the day-to-day upkeep of the station, capture and care of sharks, tagging, data entry, maintenance and use of field equipment, and many other tasks. Applicants are encouraged to look over the Bimini Sharklab website, specifically the [opportunities](#) section, which describes more fully the volunteer position.

PROCEDURE:

- Two students will be offered the opportunity to participate in a four-week internship at the Shark lab in summer 2020.
- Scholarships will be provided by BME and BBFS after the processes of advertising, application review, screening applicants and final committee selection. Advertising will be done in Jan and Feb 2020. Completed applications must be received by Feb 5, with final candidate selection made by March 15.
- Funds will be awarded to cover round-trip airfare from within the Bahamas to Bimini, travel insurance, food and accommodations.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Scholarship candidates must submit a completed ATMS application with supporting documents and, upon request, be available for an interview (via Skype) with one or more ATMS committee member. A copy of the scholarship application can be downloaded at <http://www.bahamas-marine-ecocentre.org/education/> or email info@bahamas-marine-ecocentre.org
- Scholarship recipients should be enrolled in a recognized college or high school; exceptions may be granted for those within one year of such enrollment or after graduation. Those currently out of school that are now in the work force (presumably in a related field) will also be considered.
- The internship will be offered to motivated students in good standing or those in the work force, ages 20 – 26. Exceptional cases of interns as young as 18 may be considered.
- Applicants must be in possession of a valid Bahamian passport and have a clean police record.
- Scholarship recipients must be of a high academic standard, as measured by past school records and teacher references. They should be self-starters, able to communicate well and work effectively on their own as well as in

group situations. They should be passionate about the field of research offered for the internship.

- Scholarship recipients may be asked to make themselves available for one or more interviews with the media (news stories, photo ops, etc).
- Scholarship recipients will keep a journal or daily log and provide a copy or a summary of your experience to BME at the end of the internship. The log or summarized report will become property of BME and all or select portions may be published.
- It is hoped that the scholarship recipients will continue on to higher education or work within the Bahamas in a field related to the studies undertaken with the ATMS.

PRIOR TO ARRIVAL:

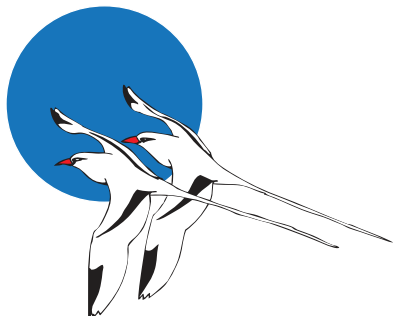
- ATMS scholarship recipients will be required to read, understand and sign a Waiver of Liability prior to arrival in Bimini. A copy of this waiver is included at the end of this package; please read it now to be sure you will be comfortable signing it. BME and BBFS will not be responsible for medical or medevac payments on your behalf. Such payments will be covered by the insurance policy we provide to the intern.
- Complete an online Emergency Contact Form for the Sharklab team (<http://www.jotform.co/form/50765067173862>)
- Neither alcohol nor controlled substances are allowed in the station during your stay at the BBFS. Violators found using illegal drugs must leave the station immediately and will be subject to local laws.

Completed applications with supporting documents must be emailed to info@bahamas-marine-ecocentre.org by Feb 5 2020

• SELECTION:

- The selection of the scholarship student(s) shall be undertaken by the ATMS Committee of Bahamas Marine EcoCentre and BBFS through application of the aforesaid criteria and/or any other criteria that the Scholarship Committee may apply in its best judgment from time to time.
- Special consideration will be given to students of limited financial means and to those schooled within the Bahamian education system. In addition to academic and/or work qualifications and references, motivation and enthusiasm will be considered.
- The ATMS committee will be comprised of referees selected annually by the BME officers. One person should represent BME and BBFS. Additional committee member may come from the Thompson family or may be an independent individual.
- Successful candidates will be notified by March 15, 2020 and subsequently be sent a Rendezvous Letter from the Bimini Sharklab containing further information on items to bring and what to expect as an intern.

Submit completed applications no later than Feb 5 2020 to:
info@bahamas-marine-ecocentre.org.



BAHAMAS MARINE ECOCENTRE
EDUCATION, RESEARCH & ART
FOSTERING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



APPLICATION FOR THE ALF THOMPSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Student's Name _____

For June 20-July 20, 2020

Bahamas Marine EcoCentre • 7201 SW 144 St Miami FL 33158 305 238 0186 •
www.bahamas-marine-ecocentre.org
Bimini Biological Field Station • South Bimini, Bahamas • www.Miami.edu/sharklab

Name _____ DOB (dd/mm/yyyy) _____

Home Address - P.O.Box _____ Town/ Family Island _____

Email _____ Tel _____

Current year in School _____ Present School _____

Schools attended previous four years _____

Are you currently working, if so where and for how long? _____

Applicants must also submit

- 1) A cover letter (500-800 words) indicating your areas of interest; experience (if any) in the preferred field of internship study and any previous volunteer or work experience, including field work and team projects; why/how you would benefit from this program; and future goals;
- 2) Police record certificate not more than two months old;
- 3) Copy of the first two pages of your Bahamian passport or other proof of citizenship;
- 4) A copy of your high school or college transcript, covering most recent two years of education; and
- 5) At least two letters of recommendation, one of which must come from a school principal, college professor, or similar educational authority or from your boss.

Letters of recommendation should include

- Length of time the referee has known the applicant and in what capacity;
- Student ranking compared with peers (top 5%, top 10%, top quarter, middle, lower quarter); and
- Comments on the applicant's strengths or weaknesses in the following:
 - Leadership skills
 - Ability to work independently
 - Maturity
 - Sense of responsibility
 - Intellectual curiosity
 - Drive to excel and fulfill his/her potential

HEALTH STATUS:

A. Ability to withstand environmental hazards (i.e. can you deal with insects, heat, cold etc?)

B. Food preferences-vegetarian, allergies, dislikes, etc:

C. Do you smoke?

D. Do you have any medical conditions, medications you take or allergies to medications?

E. Allergies to pets (Please note BBFS has 3 dogs that spend each night inside the house/living quarters):

BOATING SKILLS (i.e. have you been on boats before or driven one):

WATER SKILLS (i.e. are you proficient at swimming? Can you spend >1hr in water?):

OTHER SKILLS OR HOBBIES:

DOMESTIC and HANDY SKILLS: (i.e. cooking, cleaning, organizing, carpentry, plumbing, painting, electrical, fiber glassing, concrete work. How proficient in any?)

MECHANICAL SKILLS: (Such as pumps, engines, welding, etc)

COMPUTER SKILLS: (i.e. use office: word, excel, data bases etc)

EXPECTATIONS:

What are your long-term goals and how do you see this internship helping you to achieve your goals?

What are your expectations of this internship?

BBFS WAIVER: if selected for the ATMS internship, you will be required to sign the waiver below upon arrival in Bimini:

Waiver and Release from Liability

For the **Bimini Biological Field Station Foundation: An independent, private facility**

Warning: READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING.

You are giving up specific legal rights!!

Date / /

I _____, HEREBY RELEASE, WAIVE, DISCHARGE, AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE the following: The Bimini Biological Field Station Foundation, its employees, Dr. Samuel H. Gruber & Marie H. Gruber, The University of Miami, Participants, Sponsors, Advertisers, Promoters, sanctioning organization, or any subdivision thereof, owners, leasees of premises to conduct the activities, their employees and officers ("releasees"), releases from all liability to the undersigned, his personal representatives, assigns, heirs, and next of kin for any and all loss or damage, and any claim or demands therefore on account of injury to the person or property or resulting death of the undersigned, **whether caused by the negligence of the releasees**, unless the injury, death, or damage is caused by the gross negligence or intentional misconduct of the releasees, or breach of a statutory duty of reasonable care, while the undersigned is in or upon restricted areas, wharves boats and/or on, involving or surrounding the Bimini Biological Field Station, or in transit to or from the premises of the activities;

I _____, HEREBY **ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY** FOR AND RISK OF BODILY INJURY, DEATH OR PROPERTY DAMAGE due to the negligence of releasees, unless the injury, death, or damage is caused by the gross negligence or intentional misconduct of the releases, or breach of a statutory duty of reasonable care, while in or upon the laboratory, physical plant or research field site or while studying, observing, working or participating in, or in transit to or from, a Bimini Biological Field Station event or activity known as the **Alf Thompson Foundation intern program**

I _____, expressly acknowledge and agree **that the activities of the Bimini Biological Field Station Foundation are very dangerous and involve the risk of serious injury and/or death and/or property damage**; EACH OF THE UNDERSIGNED further expressly agrees that the foregoing release, waiver and indemnity agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the law of the province of the state and country in which the activities are conducted and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall notwithstanding, continue in full force and legal effect.

___ *THE UNDERSIGNED HAS READ, UNDERSTOOD AND **VOLUNTARILY** SIGNS THIS RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT*, and further agrees that no oral representations, statements or inducements apart from the foregoing written agreement have been made.