



TAMPA BAY WATCH, INC.

POSITION: PART-TIME BOAT CAPTAIN (DISCOVERY CENTER)

Department: Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center

Reports to: Discovery Center Lead Captain

Supervises: Mates

FLSA Status: Non-Exempt

Location: St. Petersburg Pier

General:

Tampa Bay Watch, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering a healthy Tampa Bay watershed through community-driven restoration projects, education programs, and outreach initiatives. Tampa Bay Watch, Inc. is working to preserve the delicate ecological balance that exists in Tampa Bay. Tampa Bay Watch performs a variety of habitat restoration and protection activities throughout the year utilizing thousands of volunteers annually to help the bay recover from its environmental problems. Education is a vital part of Tampa Bay Watch's mission. The Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center is a significant new addition to the education and conservation efforts of Tampa Bay Watch and is integral to the advancement of our mission.

Position Summary:

At Tampa Bay Watch, we believe that our people make us great. Our friendly, enthusiastic teams help to delight our visitors as they interact with guests and deliver the ultimate experiences. Under the supervision of the Discovery Center's Lead Captain, the Boat Captain will supervise the vessel crew and direct safe day-to-day operations of the 45' Coast Guard Certified eco-vessel, Discovery.

The Discovery takes multiple daily trips from a commercial slip in the St. Petersburg Municipal Marina at the St. Pete Pier along the St. Petersburg waterfront. The vessel visits surrounding local waters while educators present guided tours. Clients include school groups, summer camp groups, the general public, Tampa Bay Watch volunteers and donors, and others. Public tours, field trips, sunset cruises, private charters, and special events cruises are some of the experiences offered. The Discovery is designed to carry children and adults across the open water for narrated environmental and social trips and also perform fishing trawls, dolphin observations, water quality monitoring and other scientific surveys as part of our programming.

Primary Responsibility:

The Captain must ensure that the crew follow proper safety procedures and practices; make certain the boat's equipment and machinery are in working order, and be responsible for the safe loading, unloading, and transportation of passengers.

Essential Job Functions:

The Captain is responsible at all times for the safe operation of the vessel and the safety and comfort of the passengers, including safe loading and unloading. The Captain will also ensure basic maintenance and operation of the vessels, including general readiness of the vessel related to fuel, water, waste and safety equipment. The Captain will maintain vessel logs, passenger rosters, and pre-sail vessel logs including inspection of navigation equipment, machinery fluid levels and electrical systems.

Job Requirements:

- Current USCG Master of Steam Near Coastal 25-ton license (Minimum)
- Minimum of three (3) years experience in the operation and maintenance of small passenger vessels required, preferably in the Tampa Bay area waters
- Experience with maneuvering vessels while trawl gear and other scientific tools deployed preferred
- Capability to utilize a microphone to make safety briefings on each trip and ensure proper demonstration of location and operation of onboard safety devices
- Willingness to support biologists by performing net trawls and other mate/deckhand duties as needed
- Participate in themed promotional events and/or campaigns to drive revenue and marketing of the Discovery eco-tours (ex: dressing in themed costumes for holiday tours)
- Ability to use technologies associated with eco vessel operations, such as email and ticketing systems
- Willingness to participate in administrative tasks as assigned by supervisor
- Willingness to work a flexible schedule that may include half days, evenings, weekends, and holidays is essential

Necessary Licenses and other Tampa Bay Watch Requirements:

- US Coast Guard Master Captain License for 25-ton vessel (Inland or Near-Coastal)
- Adult and Infant Care First Aid/CPR Certificate required
- Ability to trailer boats and utility trailers to project sites required
- Must be enrolled in US Coast Guard Drug Screening Program
- College degree preferred
- Must pass a Level II Background Screening, including fingerprinting and random drug testing

Physical Requirements:

- Regularly endure long periods outside in the heat and humidity
- Ability to lift up to 50 lbs.

- Manual dexterity to perform basic vessel maintenance (ex: check engine fluids, conduct vessel inspections)

Familiarity with coastal ecosystems is helpful but not required. A passion for the environment is highly desired.

To apply, please send your resume and a short cover letter introducing yourself and explaining why you would like to work for the Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center **as one single PDF attachment saved as YourName_BoatCaptain** to tbwdcjobs@tampabaywatch.org. Include "Boat Captain" in the email subject line.