

# Competitive Scholarship Opportunity: Texas A&M Galveston Sea Camp



Open Only for Wunsche Students 😊

## What is Sea Camp? [Intro Video](#)

Sea Camp is a weeklong, hands-on marine science experience. Choose from taking water pollution samples, counting microorganisms, and exploring marine life from a ship (Marine Biology Research) or learning fluid dynamics/naval engineering to build & compete with an underwater robot (Marine Engineering). See FAQ's for full descriptions.

Sunday, June 14 - Saturday, June 20, 2026: **Marine Biology Research Camp - 3 scholarships available**

Sunday, July 19 - Saturday, July 25, 2026: **Marine Engineering Camp - 3 scholarships available**

## Scholarship Covers:

- Full tuition for one week at Sea Camp (value of \$1100)
- Dorm stay & meals for the week on Pelican Island
- Transportation to/from Galveston, as needed
- Chance to make new friends, explore science, and live college life for a week
- Chance to impress future colleges/jobs with “scholarship winner” on your resume 😊

## Who Can Apply?

- Current Wunsche freshmen, sophomores, and juniors (must be age 14-18 in summer 2026).
- Clean disciplinary record & good attendance – no ISS, excessive tardies, skipping, etc.
- Motivated students who are passionate about science, curious about the ocean, and excited to experience college life at Texas A&M Galveston.
- These camps are oriented towards gifted/talented students, so students in advanced science classes (honors, AP, dual credit) will have an advantage in the application process. However, the committee will consider your whole application, so all are welcome to apply!

# Application Requirements

1. Academic Transcript – Upload a copy of your most recent school transcript.
2. Science Teacher Recommendation Form – Completed by your current science teacher (about 8 minutes of their time). [Science Teacher Rec Form](#)
3. Short Essay (300-500 words) – Describe a favorite science topic and why it was so awesome. What else would you like to learn about it? How does it tie to your life now or your future plans? See the FAQ's below for some hints.
4. Personal Video (2-4 minutes) – Introduce yourself & explain your interest in Sea Camp. Why would you be a great fit? What makes you stand out as a good scholarship candidate? See the FAQ's below for some hints.

## Deadline

**Wednesday, March 11, 2026.** Applications submitted before Friday, February 13th receive a slight preference for strong demonstrated interest. No late applications will be accepted.

## How to Submit

Submit all materials at this form: [Sea Camp Scholarship Student Application](#)

Applications are not considered complete until the student application AND teacher recommendation are both submitted.

## How to Win

If you are a winner, parents/guardians must confirm that you are able to attend & help complete registration/plan for camp. Scholarship winners will be contacted by **March 27th, 2026** and presented with certificates/announced to the school shortly thereafter.

**Dive Into Science. Explore the Coast. Become a Sea Scholar!**

For questions, contact: Ms. Baade, Med Tower Room 2618, [ebaade@springisd.org](mailto:ebaade@springisd.org)

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is the difference between the two camps?

### **Marine Biology Research Camp**

What You'll Experience:

- Explore Diverse Habitats: Wade through the salt marshes of Galveston Bay, searching for biodiversity and discovering the crucial role these ecosystems play in our environment.
- Research Vessel Expedition: Join us for an exhilarating trip aboard a research vessel! Collect and study pelagic and benthic organisms, gaining firsthand experience in marine research techniques.
- Lab Tours and Learning: Tour our state-of-the-art labs to learn about fish, marine mammals, and sea turtles. Engage with expert educators and discover the science behind marine biology, and complete your own research project.
- Previous years have also included: fish & shark dissections, collecting organisms from the bay, and examining dolphin skeletons/skulls.



### **Marine Engineering Camp**

What You'll Experience:

- Interdisciplinary Education: Explore Maritime Systems Engineering through engaging topics such as fluid mechanics, naval architecture, structural design, and coastal engineering. Participate in hands-on projects and competitions that allow you to apply engineering principles in creative and practical ways.
- Exposure to Marine Engineering Labs: Get a behind-the-scenes look at the marine engineering labs at Texas A&M University Galveston (TAMUG). Learn from experienced faculty and gain insights into cutting-edge research and technologies.
- Field Trips: Experience thrilling field trips to the TAMUG marine ship simulation labs, the Ocean Star Oil Rig Museum, and NASA. See firsthand how engineering principles are applied in various maritime and aerospace contexts.
- Previous years have also included: learning to solder metal, constructing & racing remote operated vehicles in the pool, building model bridges, & taking a trip on a research vessel.



For more info – please go to <https://www.tamug.edu/seacamp/index.html>

### **Can I apply to both camps?**

Yes. You may use the same essay for both applications, but please record two separate videos about why you are interested in each camp. Applying to both camps shows strong demonstrated interest, which does slightly boost your chances of winning the scholarship!

### **Do I have to be available for the entire week of Sea Camp?**

Yes, this is a weeklong camp, so partial attendance isn't possible. Please check your schedule in advance - including family vacation plans, jobs, dual credit summer classes, etc - and apply only to the camps you can attend in full.

### **I'm staying in a dorm? How does that work?**

Please go to this link for information about housing, supervision, rules, and a map.

<https://www.tamug.edu/seacamp/index.html>

### **I'm not great in front of a camera. How can I boost my application?**

- Consider the background of your video – is it clean and organized?
- Check that your clothes & appearance look professional.
- Plan what you are going to say first. Consider memorizing a script or working from an outline.
- Rehearse in the mirror or with a friend until you can comfortably talk through your main points.
- Pretend that someone is sitting in place of the camera - make “eye contact” with them, smile, and gesture to look less nervous.
- Watch your video & record again until it looks as natural as possible.

### **What topic should I choose for my essay?**

“A favorite science topic” means just that – any topic from any type of science/engineering is great. It doesn't have to be marine biology or marine engineering. Talk about an experiment you loved, a lesson that was the coolest, a topic you've researched on your own...whatever makes YOU light up about science. The more unique, the better. Avoid choosing a whole class - “I loved 9th grade biology” - because that includes dozens of topics.

### **A lot of essays sound the same. How can I make mine stand out?**

- Be specific and detailed! “I want to study biology” is not nearly as interesting as “I would like to study how pollution affects the organisms in the stream near my house.”
- Make your essay personal – why does this topic interest you?
- Write it yourself so the scholarship committee can recognize your own personal “voice.” ChatGPT sounds vague & soulless.
- Have someone proofread your essay – maybe your English teacher or someone else with a college degree.

### **How will my application be considered?**

All 4 parts of the application will be evaluated by a committee of Wunsche teachers. The committee will look at the entire application - so please apply even if you feel one part of your application may be weaker!