

## DECK CHIEF (multiple positions)

**Status:** Independent Contractor, Seasonal

**FLSA Classification:** Non-exempt

**Compensation Type:** Contracted Day Rate

**Benefits Eligible:** No

**Reports to:** Operations Manager

**Location:** Onboard E/V *Nautilus*, worldwide

### BACKGROUND

The Ocean Exploration Trust (OET) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization—founded in 2007 by Dr. Robert Ballard—with the aim of exploring the ocean and seeking new discoveries while pushing the boundaries of technological innovation, education, and outreach. OET owns and operates E/V *Nautilus*, a 224-foot exploration vessel equipped with acoustic mapping systems, remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), and other state-of-the-art exploration technologies. Expeditions aboard E/V *Nautilus* are conducted in partnership with the organization’s primary sponsors, NOAA Ocean Exploration, and the National Geographic Society, as well as in close collaboration with the ocean exploration community. Through telepresence, E/V *Nautilus* expeditions are streamed live to provide scientists and the public with real-time access to exploratory research and the excitement of discovery. Data and samples from expeditions are made publicly available in order to provide a foundational resource to stimulate further research, exploration, and management activities.

### POSITION OVERVIEW

The Deck Chief is responsible for working with the remotely operated vehicle (ROV) team, science teams, and vessel bridge crew to safely deploy vehicles and scientific equipment. They will be responsible for directing safe crane lifting operations on the aft deck; supporting the ROV team with safe launch and recovery of vehicles; launch and recovery of guest science equipment/vehicles (e.g., AUVs, ASVs, autonomous camera systems, scientific moorings, etc); safe securing of equipment on deck; and playing a lead role in the development of launch and recovery protocols of new vehicles and equipment that is brought onboard. To be successful in the role, individuals will have at least AB-level experience working on scientific research vessels (or equivalent experience), a keen eye for detail and safety, and will be a collaborative team player.

### PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Lead safe overboarding and recovery of all scientific equipment in support of OET’s scientific missions
- Lead safe onboard crane/heavy lifting operations in port and at sea.
- Lead in securing equipment on deck of the ship
- Work with and train people from a range of experiences in order to take part in OET’s onboard training programs
- Assist OET in developing overboarding procedures for new vehicles that are periodically brought aboard by visiting science teams

## MUST BE ABLE TO

- Obtain a US Passport or appropriate visa.
- Deploy at sea for up to 120 contiguous days.
- Be able to work an unstructured day to day schedule.
- Have a willingness to take part and learn about the technical aspects of the ROVs and other scientific equipment.
- Be physically and mentally capable of meeting the demands of living and operating aboard a working exploration vessel, and must be able to live in close quarters with other expedition team members (including a shared stateroom).
- Maintain a pleasant and professional demeanor under challenging conditions while interacting with fellow expedition team members and while interacting with the public online.
- Contribute to an inclusive work environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity.
- Support OET's mission of training the next generation of STEM professionals by helping to support junior personnel participating in the expedition by engaging with them and helping to provide a positive learning experience at sea.
- To the level that is relevant to this position, contribute to OET's mission to inspire and engage youth and the public by participating in outreach and/or port tours during the expedition.

## SKILLS REQUIRED

- A minimum of AB-level experience on scientific research vessels or equivalent shipboard experience
- Working knowledge of selecting and using various rigging hardware, such as ropes, slings, shackles, clamps, pulleys, chain falls, and come-alongs
- Ability to ensure crane operations are safe, accounting for weather impacts, vessel motion, and equipment safe working loads up to 10,000 lbs or more
- Training/experience in rigging safety and theory
- Training/experience in operating a 15T crane and ability to handle loads at sea
- Ability to work with others and give instructions in a clear and safe manner
- Ability to keep rigging equipment organized and maintain test records and inspection sheets
- Ability to evaluate weather conditions and ship motion to determine if a crane operation is safe to proceed
- Ability to collaborate with the captain and others to make weather calls on operations
- Ability to mentor and training students and individuals with varied levels of experience
- Ability to oversee inventory, inspection and documentation of lifting equipment
- General workshop skills and comfortable using hand and power tools
- Comfortable with computers for simple data entry, email, etc.

## PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

- Certified Marine Rigger or equivalent experience
- Sea Crane Training Certificate
- High Voltage Training/Experience
- Hydraulics Training/Experience
- Offshore safety training (STCW)

## PHYSICAL DEMANDS

This is largely an active role with at-sea activity to launch and recover equipment over-the-side, operate heavy machinery, and carry up to 50 lbs is required.

## POSITION TYPE/EXPECTED HOURS OF WORK

This is a rotating seasonal position that requires up to 3 month deployments at a time throughout the year. OET is seeking multiple people so that 2-3 people may fill the role in rotation while the ship is deployed for 10 months out of the year on an annual basis. A typical work day may include preparing and leading multiple launch and recovery operations of ROVs, AUVs, or scientific instrumentation. The deck chief does not stand a watch and must be on call and able to work an unstructured day to day schedule.

## COMPENSATION

Day rate will be competitive with standard research vessel rates and commensurate with experience. OET will cover all costs associated with travel, room, and board.

## ELIGIBILITY & WORK AUTHORIZATION

In compliance with federal law, all persons hired will be required to verify identity and eligibility to work in the United States and to complete the required employment eligibility verification document form upon hire. Please see our [Waters/Ports Entry Requirements for Expedition Travelers](#) for more details.

## EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Ocean Exploration Trust is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. It is our policy to prohibit discrimination and harassment of any type. We provide equal employment opportunities to all persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, genetic information, disability, veteran status, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital and family status. Ocean Exploration Trust is committed to creating an inclusive work environment and organizational culture. [Learn more about our organizational diversity and inclusion efforts and current priorities.](#)

## TO APPLY

**Deadline:** Open until filled on a rolling basis

**Application:** To apply, please submit your CV to the form linked below.

**Upload your application at:** <https://nautl.us/2023ICA>

Please contact us at [careers@oet.org](mailto:careers@oet.org) if you have any questions or issues with your application submission.