



Ms. Tori loves volunteering at the Oklahoma Aquarium, where sometimes she gets to dress up like a mermaid!

Aquarium Librarian

Ms. Tori **LOVES** Kids, Books & Ocean Animals!

Tori Hamilton – better known as “Ms. Tori” – has been a children’s associate at the Glenpool Library for more than six years. But she also loves the Oklahoma Aquarium and all things ocean! Read this Q&A with Ms. Tori to learn more.

Q: You work at the Glenpool Library helping children and families find great books and information, but you also have been a volunteer with the Oklahoma Aquarium. The library’s Summer Reading Program theme this year is “Oceans of Possibilities. What does it feel like to bring together “Aquarium Tori” with “Librarian Tori” in this way?

A: It’s pretty great! The Summer Reading Program is usually a busy time for librarians, but I feel uniquely prepared this year. Haha!

Q: How did you get interested in ocean animals and the aquarium? What is your favorite thing to do as a volunteer for the aquarium?

A: I’m a lifelong animal lover so when the opportunity came to volunteer at the aquarium, I jumped at it. I was an active weekly volunteer for two years, though these days I only go in when they need help with big events.

My favorite part of volunteering is talking to people about the exhibits. When people say, “Wow! Look at that!”, I love being able to say, “Right? But did you know...” There’s nothing like sharing enthusiasm for cool things with an equally enthusiastic audience.

Q: Do you have any fond ocean memories? For someone who is going to the ocean for the first time, what do you recommend they do?

A: Well, all of my ocean memories are fond ones! It’s hard to have a bad time at the beach! If you’re going for the first time, try everything! Walk barefoot in the sand, dig for shells, float in the water and read under a colorful umbrella. You never know which parts will be your favorites.

Q: What is your absolute, all-time favorite ocean animal? Why?

A: I love octopuses! They’re just so amazing! I can go on and on about how great they are. (In fact, I wrote a list of cool octopus facts, in this very guide you are reading!)

Q: You are known for singing and playing guitar in your storytimes at the Glenpool Library. Do you have a favorite ocean-themed song that you think kids will like? What makes it a good song?

A: I love the old campfire song “Barges” about watching ships in the harbor. It’s upbeat and catchy. So cheerful! *NOTE TO READERS: Watch Ms. Tori sing this song at www.youtube.com/tulsalibrary!

Q: You also like to do yoga moves in storytime. Any ocean yoga move kids could easily do?

A: Of course! My favorite “ocean” pose is Warrior 2. Technically, it has nothing to do with the ocean, but it’s perfect for pretending you’re surfing while you build strong surfing muscles!

Q: What do you want kids to get out of the Summer Reading Program? Any words of advice or wisdom for them? What does the library have to offer them?

A: Mostly I want kids to know it’s not just about the books! It’s about what’s inside them. Knowledge and stories, cool pictures and cool facts. Reading doesn’t have to be boring if you read about things you love.

Oh, no! The octopus has captured Ms. Tori! Well, not really... she’s just getting ready for an ocean octopus storytime at the Glenpool Library.



MS. TORI'S
SIX FAVORITE
OCEAN BOOKS



Squid and Octopus: Friends for Always by Tao Nyeu • Cute and colorful! This picture book is equal parts silly and wholesome.



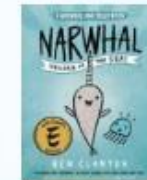
Down, Down, Down: A Journey to the Bottom of the Sea by Steve Jenkins • Awesome illustrations bring this informative nonfiction book to life.



Ocean Meets Sky by Terry Fan • Breathtakingly beautiful and highly imaginative, this is the stuff dreams are made of!



I'm the Biggest Thing in the Ocean by Kevin Sherry • A giant squid brags about how big he is, with predictable consequences.



Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea by Ben Clanton • First book in a hilarious graphic novel series.



Ocean Life by Jill McDonald • An adorable board book for sharing ocean love with very young readers.