

Cool Careers :: Dolphin Trainer

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Imagine getting paid to work with one of the world's most gentle and intelligent [creatures](#). Dolphin training can be a rewarding career. But it's also hard work, both physically and mentally.



Courtesy of Animal Planet

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Dolphin Trainer's Responsibilities

Dolphin trainers are responsible for many things: keeping the [dolphins](#) (and sometimes other animals like whales, [seals](#), etc) as well as their environment clean and [healthy](#), feeding them, cleaning their aquatic environment, and providing medical attention. But those are just the basic survival needs. Trainer's also enrich the dolphins' lives by providing entertainment and stimulation. And most importantly, they teach them different behaviors.

Types of Dolphin Training Facilities

Every facility will have different education and experience-based requirements. But in every case, the more you have, the better. Facilities that provide marine shows for the public require **dolphin trainers** who are strong and confident public speakers. Other behind-the-scenes types of facilities that focus on research will require more post-secondary education. Rehabilitation

centers—places where dolphins are [rescued](#), nursed back to health and released into the wild—require experience in medicine.

Education Needed to Become a Dolphin Trainer

If you're planning to pursue **dolphin training**, you can start in high school. Take courses in [biology](#), psychology and, if you can, animal behavior studies. You'll also need other [science](#) courses like chemistry if you're pursuing the [veterinary](#) side of **dolphin training**. Some entry-level positions will only require a high school diploma, so having [volunteer](#) experience **working with animals** would put your resume ahead of the pack. But your best bet is to have a Bachelor's degree in biology or a program specific to **marine animal training**.

On the Job

A dolphin trainer's job may not seem glamorous at first. It can take years to gain the skills and experience needed to work independently with animals. So what do you do in the mean time? [Clean](#), prepare food, interact with the public, etc. All things take time. Especially [studying](#) behaviors and gaining the animals' trust.

Cool Careers: Chef

Are you passionate about [food](#)? Do you enjoy [cooking](#) or [baking](#) or creating new recipes? Then a career as a chef is perfect for you.



Chef

Training to Become a Chef

There are two **ways to become a chef**. First, you can attend a **culinary school** in your area that offers two-year or four-year programs. Or second, you can work as a **chef's apprentice**, learning first-hand in an on-the-job setting. But it's not quite that simple. Becoming a chef takes a lot of hard work and [studying](#). You'll need to excel in these areas: creativity, multi-tasking, determination, and co-ordination. And don't forget, this [career](#) involves tons of [stress](#) and criticism.

Working Your Way to the Top

Like most careers, if you want to reach the top of your industry, you have to start at the bottom. In high school take **cooking courses**, and find a part-time [job](#) at a restaurant. Even if you're a dishwasher, it still helps to get your foot in the door. Once you become a **certified chef**, you can still work your way up. Depending on your level of training, title, clientele and the venue you work for, your paycheck will move up too!

Where Chefs Work

Chefs are needed everywhere people pay to eat, and even sometimes where they don't (like in the [White House](#)!) You don't necessarily have to work in regular restaurants. You could work in [cafeterias](#) and hotels, [golf courses](#) and hospitals, or even for a catering company. And if you've got a [travel](#) bug, you could even [work on a cruise ship](#)!

Certification

There are many types of **certified chefs** (for example, Certified Sous Chef, Certified Executive Pastry Chef, etc.). Becoming certified means that you have completed all the education and work experience required for your specific avenue of **culinary arts**. Every type of certification has different requirements. So check out the [American Culinary Federation](#) or the [Canadian Culinary Federation](#) (or the Culinary Federation in your area) to view the certification requirements.

Cool Careers: Making a Band

Being in a [band](#) is the ultimate dream for so many people--creating music, performing live and recording CDs. And best of all, you're paid to do what you love. But like any [career](#) in the arts field, it can be hard to make a living. Here's the first steps you need to take in order to make a band:



How to Make a Band

Step 1: Find Musicians

If you and your friends are in this together, perfect! You've already completed step one. If not, you'll have to find some talented [musicians](#) who share the same goals as you. So where do you start? Check local places where music lovers gather: CD stores, concerts, even your school band class. Or ask people you know. Still no luck? Then place free ads around town: on message boards, street posts and Craigslist.

Step 2: Practice, Practice, Practice

Step two is a three-tiered step. First you need to make sure you have all your required [instruments](#). Hopefully your band mates have their own equipment. If not, [save up](#) because instruments are expensive. Then find a place to practice. You'll have to be especially nice to your parents or tenants if you want to use your house. Then agree on a music style, [write](#) songs and [practice](#). And don't stop practicing. Think of it as a jam session. Practicing is part of the fun. If practicing feels like work, maybe a band isn't the right career for you. Make a schedule, so that every band member can commit to being there on time.

Step 3: Advertise

You have to get exposure. Give your band a MySpace page, and build a website. If you're not tech-[savvy](#), don't worry. There are tons of sites online that provide website-building templates. Create a promotional package, complete with demo tracks, a [band biography](#), and copies of newspaper clippings or any other press your band has received. You'll need this package to approach record labels.

Step 4: Book Gigs

Book unpaid gigs at different venues like fairs, music cafés and even school/battle-of-the-band competitions. Don't grumble at the unpaid part. Remember, you have to start on the bottom and work your way up.

Being in a band will not make you an instant millionaire. In fact, chances are you'll never become a millionaire. Most musicians are in it for the love of playing music rather than the cash flow. So while it's good to be ambitious, it's a good idea to have other career options.