

Volunteer Guide Rotation App

<https://simard57.synology.me/Aqua>

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The Link for the App is listed here <https://simard57.synology.me/Aqua> and is also on the footer of each slide.

So, if you wish to play with it during the talk or follow along with the slides; have at it!

Rationale behind the App

Why I did this App!

- ◊ COVID project to brush up my web skills
- ◊ Goal is to replicate all the paper aids being used
 - ◊ Improve customization of shift rotation
 - ◊ Make rotation more readable for mature eyes
- ◊ Streamline the shift rotation assignments for guides
- ◊ Yet another option to assign shift rotations
 - ◊ If what you are doing works, keep using it!

<https://simard57.synology.mnc/Aqua>



I wanted to brush up on my programming skills. I learned how to use PHP in the sites HTML code.

As a test case, I decided to automate the Shift schedule we used for our Tuesday Morning shift.

After returning from COVID, we went through multiple iterations of the shift rotation, and it got confusing which one we were to use.

It also seemed a good way to reduce paper and plastic waste if only by a little – but every bit counts!

Obviously, Use what works best for your team. This is just another option.

App Home Page

- ❖ Website at <https://simard57.synology.me/Aqua>
- ❖ Has links to Aquarium sites
 - ❖ The Volunteer login page
 - ❖ Volunteer Resource Center
- ❖ To use
 - ❖ Select the day and shift you work
 - ❖ Allows shift rotation customization.
 - ❖ More on this later.

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Day	Shift
Sunday	1st 2nd 3rd
Monday	1st 2nd 3rd
Tuesday	1st 2nd 3rd
Wednesday	1st 2nd 3rd
Thursday	1st 2nd 3rd
Friday	1st 2nd 3rd
Saturday	1st 2nd 3rd

[▶ How to customize rotation!
And other Feedback and Requests](#)

I added a couple of links I was using often.

The app is a launchpad for things that are related to being an aquarium volunteer.

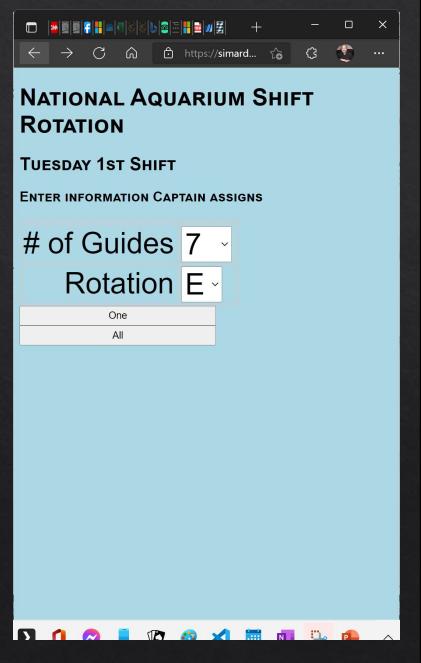
- You can log your hours using the “Volunteer Login Site” link
- You can access the “Volunteer Resource Center” to see the General Admission sales and estimates for crowd size

Click the day and shift to get to the scheduling aid. I work the Tuesday 1st Shift

My Tuesday Morning Shift

- ❖ Select the number of guides in the shift
- ❖ Select the Rotation
- ❖ Example here shows
 - ❖ 7 Guides on shift
 - ❖ And I am assigned Rotation E
- ❖ Click One or All
 - ❖ One shows only selected rotation
 - ❖ All shows selected rotation and all other rotations

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The Number of Volunteers varies each week so count the noses in the room and enter that for the number of Guides.

The Captain (or Guest Engagement) then assigns the rotation to each volunteer.

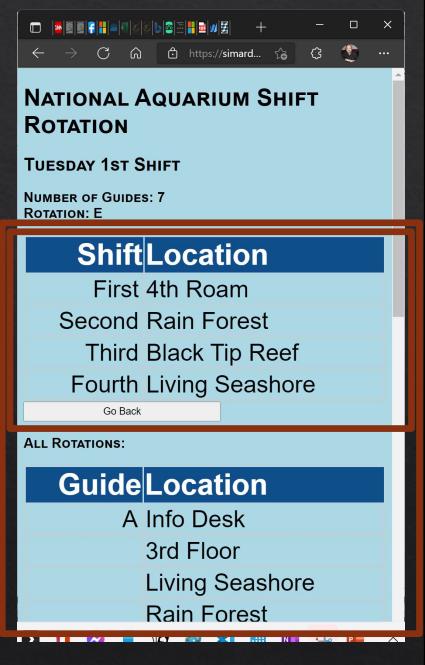
Click the One or All button (perhaps I should delete the One button to keep it simpler)

Rotation Summary

- ❖ Rotation is listed in easy-to-read list
- ❖ If One was clicked, single rotation is listed.
- ❖ If All was clicked, each rotation can be seen by scrolling screen

- ❖ Optionally take a screenshot of this screen to have easy access to rotation

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Which brings us to the Rotation Screen. The App displays a standard 4 shift rotation even though in offseason we only use the 1st three due to shorter hours.

If the All button was pushed, you will also see all the rotations that you can scroll through

I usually take a screenshot of this page to have access to it whenever I need to without having to go through the process all over

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The screenshot shows a web-based application titled "NATIONAL AQUARIUM SHIFT ROTATION". At the top, it displays "TUESDAY 1ST SHIFT" with "NUMBER OF GUIDES: 7" and "ROTATION: E". Below this, there are two main sections: "ShiftLocation" and "GuideLocation".
ShiftLocation:
First 4th Roam
Second Rain Forest
Third Black Tip Reef
Fourth Living Seashore
GuideLocation:
A Info Desk
3rd Floor
Living Seashore
Rain Forest

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Save Site to Home Screen!

- ◊ It is a good idea to save the Volunteer Guide Rotation website to phone home screen
 - ◊ Or at least save as a favorite
- ◊ How to save to home screen is phone and browser dependent
- ◊ Use Google or YouTube or ask your Grandkids to find instructions for your phone and browser
 - ◊ <https://natomasunified.org/kb/add-website-to-mobile-device-home-screen/>

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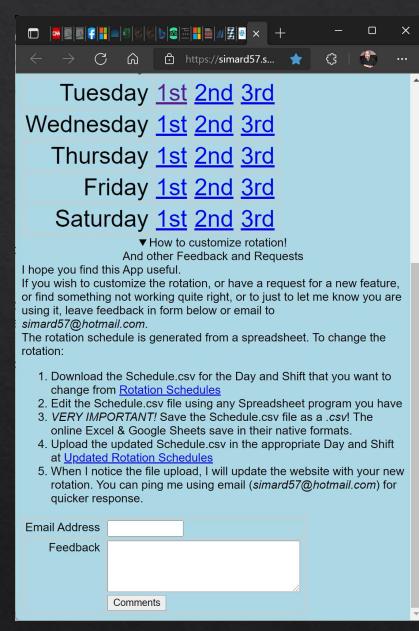


Putting a webpage on the phone's home screen is dependent on the phone and browser you have. Link above has instructions for iPhone/Safari and Android/Chrome

Customizing Shift Rotation

- ❖ Instructions to customize displayed by clicking the triangle Glyph
- ❖ Requires modifying simple spreadsheet
- ❖ Notice the Feedback Form
 - ❖ Use to alert me a new schedule has been uploaded
 - ❖ Use to report bugs in the Scheduling App
 - ❖ Or just to let me know you are using the App
 - ❖ Use to request new features or report bugs you discover

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Each shift can create their own rotation. Captains tend to know what works best. How to customize the rotation is covered on the APP home screen. Click the Glyphe at the bottom to review instructions

Behind the Scenes – The Rotation File

- ❖ The rotations are read from a Spreadsheet file
- ❖ Each row represents the number of volunteers that are on the shift
- ❖ The Columns are the Rotation Assignments
- ❖ The Cells contain the rotation as Dash separated abbreviations
- ❖ The file has to be saved as a CSV format
- ❖ Easy Peasy to change the rotation

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A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
Guides	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	3 A-IF-RF-A	RF-A-IF-RF	IF-RF-A-IF							
2	4 A-LS-IF-RF	LS-IF-RF-A	IF-RF-A-LS	RF-A-LS-IF						
3	5 LS-A-IF-BT	A-RF-LS-IF	RF-LS-BT-A	BT-IF-RF-LS	IF-BT-A-RF					
4	6 LS-IF-BT-3	RF-A-IF-LS	A-RF-LS-BT	BT-3-A-RF	3-BT-4-IF	IF-LS-RF-A				
5	7 IF-3-LS-RF	3-A-IF-4	RF-IF-3-BT	LS-4-A-IF	4-RF-BT-LS	A-BT-RF-3	BT-LS-4-A			
6	8 A-IF-4-RF	LS-A-BT-IF	UV-LS-IF-A	BT-4-UV-LS	RF-3-A-BT	3-UV-LS-4	IF-RF-3-UV	4-BT-RF-3		
7	9 A-BT-IF-3	IF-A-3-LS	UV-2-BT-IF	4-RF-UV-A	RF-LS-2-BT	3-IF-RF-4	2-3-A-UV	LS-UV-4-RF	BT-4-LS-2	
8	10 2-UV-IF-LS	UV-2-R-IF	LS-RF-3-A	RF-J-BT-3	R-3-A-BT	4-IF-RF-UV	IF-LS-2-R	3-A-4-RF	BT-4-UV-2	A-BT-LS-4
9										
10										
11										
12	5/13/2021	ID	FullName							
13			IF Info Desk							
14			RF Rain Forest							
15			A Australia							
16			LS Seashore							
17			BT Black Tip Reef							
18			3 3rd Floor							
19			4 4th Roam							
20			UV Underwater							
21			2 2nd Floor							
22			J Jellies							
23			R Roam							

There is a simple spreadsheet behind each shift rotation schedule. It can be edited and returned to replace the current one in use

Additionally, this spreadsheet can be printed and laminated or volunteers that prefer paper. (I hope they have good eyes)ou

Recent Feature Added

- ❖ Show & Tell links to Pictures and Videos of Aquarium animals
- ❖ I use these during “quiet” hours to engage with guest to show them the Animals in ways not always seen.
 - ❖ The Sunbittern in all his glory (was he warning or flirting? I do not want to know!)
 - ❖ Rarely seen Boat Billed Heron
 - ❖ The Sloth raiding a bird feeder
 - ❖ Archer fish in slow motion
 - ❖ Close-up of Screaming Piha
- ❖ Currently it is a View-Only album but if you have pictures you would like to add, contact me

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NATIONAL AQUARIUM SHIFT ROTATION
TUESDAY 2ND SHIFT
NUMBER OF GUIDES: 3
ROTATION: A

Shift Location

- First Australia
- Second Info Desk
- Third Rain Forest
- Fourth Australia
- Aquarium Show & Tell

All Rotations:

Guide Location

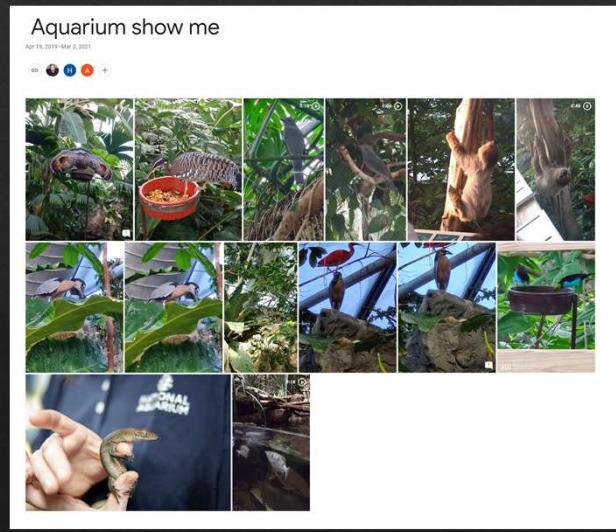
- A Australia
- Info Desk
- Rain Forest

A Bonus feature!

I try to take pictures of our animals when they are behaving in ways that guests may not be fortunate to see

- The Sunbittern has hidden beauty
- The Boat Billed Heron is a master of hiding
- The sloths are more stationary and watching them close up is a rare treat
- Though loud, sometimes the Piha is hard to find so showing people what to look for is a small pleasure

Shared Google Photo Album



That's All Folks!

Hope you find it useful!

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