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# COASTAL RESEARCH, RESTORATION, AND EDUCATION ASSISTANT

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## Summary

The Indian River County Coastal Division and non-profit partner Coastal Connections, Inc., are seeking volunteer research, restoration, and education assistants to help with sea turtle monitoring projects, oyster reef restoration projects and educational community involvement programs. There will be up to three unpaid-positions available May-August (approx. 15 weeks); start and end dates are flexible. There will be joint responsibilities between organizations either in the field collecting data or leading educational programs for people of all ages. Assistants will be expected to work up to 40 hours per week in a professional office or outside in the elements.

**All applicants are expected to fulfill roles professionally.**

## Sea Turtle Conservation and Research

### Responsibilities

- Identify species, locate and mark nests, and conduct nest excavations
- Collect data in field using novel technology
- Operate an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) safely on the beach
- Assist staff biologist and volunteers with daily nesting surveys, beginning at sunrise
- Assist staff biologist with documentation and removal of live and dead stranded marine life
- Assist staff biologist with documentation of adult and hatchling disorientations
- Assist staff biologist with conducting beachfront lighting surveys

### Physical Requirements

The physical demands described herein are representative of those that must be met by a research and education assistant to successfully perform the essential program functions.

Duties Include:

- Regularly stand for long periods of time
- Walk long distances on sand

- Spend long periods in the sun and hot climate
- Conduct public presentations
- Use hands to dig in sand for long periods of time
- Handle federally protected species
- Utilize electronic data collection methods

Assistants will frequently lift and/or move up to 50 pounds. Almost all duties will be completed outside where the environmental elements of heat, rain, and bugs are present. Assistants will be expected to work at sunrise (approximately 5:30am) until all duties have been completed through all types of weather conditions.

## Coastal Restoration and Recycling

### Responsibilities

- Coordinate with volunteers and assist with organization of recycled oyster shell
- Coordinate with restaurants and volunteers weekly for oyster shell pickup
- Bag oyster shell for restoration deployment
- Help organize a mangrove nurse program
- Assist staff and volunteers with oyster mat and oyster bag deployment in lagoon
- Assist staff biologist and engineer with post-restoration observations
- Physical requirements are same as above

## Community Involvement and Education

### Responsibilities

- Help conduct public education presentations centered around nest excavations
- Assist staff in teaching pre-designed classroom & field programs
- Help improve current conservation incentive programs like Turtle Friendly Business
- Design new and exciting outreach programs
- Assist with program marketing, web-support, and photographic database

## Qualifications

Applicants must be 18 years or older. College students or recent graduates with a biology, environmental science, coastal engineering or related degree who are responsible, adaptable, motivated, and have good attention to detail are encouraged to apply. Maturity and professionalism are necessary when interacting with the public, when working with CCinc volunteers, and assisting County staff. Applicants must be a US citizen, must possess a valid U.S. driver's license, must have their own car for transportation, are able to

work well with others, and must be willing to work in adverse conditions for up to 6 straight hours (humidity, heat, rain, sunlight, bugs).

## **Preferred applicants**

- Have field research experience
- Have public speaking experience
- Able to commit 15 weeks during summer (May 1-Aug 15)
- ATV experience
- Willing to work long days in adverse conditions

## How to Apply

Interested applicants should submit the following by Feb. 28, 2018:

- Resume or curriculum vitae
- 1-2 page letter of interest (including availability and contact information)
- College transcripts (official or unofficial)
- Two references (One college professor and one professional. These should come directly from the reference).

### **Please email materials to:**

Kendra Cope

Indian River County

Sea Turtle Coordinator and Environmental Specialist

[kcope@ircgov.com](mailto:kcope@ircgov.com)