



INDIAN RIVER MARINE SCIENCE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ASSISTANT

Summary

The Indian River County Sea Turtle Program, developed under the Indian River County Habitat Conservation Plan, in partnership with Vero Beach Marine Laboratory, a branch of Florida Institute of Technology, is seeking volunteer research and education assistants to help with sea turtle monitoring projects, community educational outreach events, summer camps, and laboratory animal care. There will be four unpaid-positions available May-August (approx. 15 weeks); start and end dates are flexible. There will be joint responsibilities in the field and at the marine lab, and assistants will be expected to work between 30-40 hours per week.

Students will be required to fulfill roles with both the Indian River County Sea Turtle Program and the Vero Beach Marine Laboratory.

Sea Turtle Nesting and Outreach

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
- Help conduct public education presentations centered around nest excavations

Physical Requirements

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



Duties Include:

- Regularly stand for long periods of time
- Walk long distances on sand
- Give public presentations
- Use hands to dig in sand
- Handle protected species.

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. Assistant will be expected to work at sunrise (approximately 5:30am) until all duties have been completed through all types of weather conditions.

Marine Lab Research and Education

Responsibilities

- Aide staff in teaching pre-designed classroom & field programs for groups ages 5-adults
- Assemble fin-clipping kits, enter data, and conduct occasional field sampling
- Prepare and clean laboratory space for animals
- Assist with laboratory marketing, web-support, and photographic database

Physical Requirements

When working at the Vero Beach Marine Laboratory, everyone must wear closed-toed shoes. When scheduled to be at the marine lab, work days will be long (approximately 9am-6pm). Assistants may spend time in field and must be willing to work in wet and muddy environments and must be able to swim in poor visibility.

Qualifications

College students or recent graduates with a biological science 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 and when working with IRCSTP volunteers, the county staff, and VBML research staff. Applicants must be a US citizen, must possess a valid U.S. driver's license, must have health insurance, 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
- Able to commit 15 weeks during summer (May 1-Aug 13)
- ATV experience
- Able to swim
- Willing to work long days in adverse conditions

How to Apply

Interested applicants should submit the following by Feb. 28, 2016:

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

Please email materials to:

Kendra Cope

Sea Turtle Coordinator and Environmental Specialist

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