



VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION

TITLE: Coastal Restoration Volunteer
LOCATION: Volusia County, Florida
REPORT TO: Becki O'Keefe, Volunteer Coordinator

OVERVIEW OF POSITION

Coastal areas are an extremely important ecosystem that is constantly being developed and enduring many issues. Mangroves are one of the organisms of the ecosystem that are unique because they are halophytes. They are able to grow in salty conditions and are important because they help filter the water, provide habitat for many organisms and provide shoreline structure. There are three species of mangroves: Red, Black and White mangroves. Mangroves are susceptible to cold temperatures, and for this reason, Ponce Inlet is generally considered the northern boundary for mangrove growth, although some trees can be found in Ormond Beach and farther north. They can also be outcompeted by exotic invasive species, which do not provide the same structure, filtering, and habitat as these native organisms. Volusia County Environmental Management (VCEM) is concentrating restoration efforts on the red mangrove because they grow the farthest into the water and their unique root structure can handle waves and provide refuge for juvenile fish and other animals. Oysters also serve several very important functions in the estuarine ecosystem. Not only do they provide habitat for other marine organisms and reduce erosion by absorbing the energy of waves that pass over them, but they also serve as a natural filtration system. A single oyster may filter around 30 gallons of water each day. Because of these important functions, it is imperative that we maintain healthy oyster populations in Volusia County. Since 2006, VCEM has partnered with the Marine Discovery Center for mangrove and oyster restoration. Volunteers may aid in these and other restoration projects.

SPECIFIC TASKS

1. Learn and apply restoration techniques.
2. Planting of mangroves.
3. Preparation of oyster mats.

Please note that specific tasks may change depending on the project.

TIME REQUIRED

2-6 HOURS DEPENDING ON PROJECT

QUALIFICATIONS

1. The desire and motivation to protect the natural environment by planting mangroves and preparing oyster mats.
2. The ability to work independently and in a team setting.
3. The ability to become knowledgeable of restoration techniques.
4. Ability to lift up to 25 pounds.
5. Ability to work in the field where light exertion to arduous exertion is possible.

AGE REQUIREMENTS

Must be 14 years of age. Volunteers under 18 years of age must have a parent or legal guardian sign a liability waiver.

EXPERIENCE

Prior experience is beneficial but not required.

TRAINING REQUIRED

On the job training will be provided.

LENGTH OF COMMITMENT

The demand for Coastal Restoration volunteers fluctuates depending on specific conditions. Length of commitment varies with each project.

BENEFITS TO VOLUNTEER

1. Learn about the environment and the importance of coastal restoration.
2. Satisfaction of knowing how important your role is in aiding with coastal restoration.
3. Meet people who share a common interest and goal to protect the environment.
4. Students can use volunteer hours for graduation requirements.
5. Great addition to resume!