



VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION

TITLE: Gopher Tracker
LOCATION: Volusia County, Florida
REPORT TO: Danielle Dangleman, Gopher Tortoise Program Manager

OVERVIEW OF POSITION

In Florida, the gopher tortoise is listed as a threatened species. Both the tortoise and its burrow are protected under state law. Gopher Trackers are volunteers who have a desire to help in efforts to protect the gopher tortoise. Gopher Trackers document sightings of gopher tortoises and their burrows. Volunteers gather information such as the location of gopher tortoise sightings and/or burrow sightings. Being as specific as possible is important. A complete address is best, but if that is not available, simply indicate what street (with cross roads if possible) the tortoise or burrow was documented with the closest landmark. Since the gopher tortoise is listed as a threatened species, please do not harm, harass, handle or feed the gopher tortoise.

SPECIFIC TASKS

1. Review online training manual.
2. Identify gopher tortoises and burrows.
3. Report gopher tortoise and burrow sightings.
4. Collect data in order to record the location, movement and range of gopher tortoises.
5. Collecting waypoints from a GPS unit is helpful, but not necessary.
6. Taking pictures of gopher tortoises and burrows is also helpful; however, please remember not to encroach on the gopher tortoise's space or trespass on private property to obtain photos.

TIME REQUIRED

THERE IS NO TIME REQUIREMENT. THIS IS A SELF-DIRECTED VOLUNTEER PROGRAM.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. The desire and motivation to protect the gopher tortoise.
2. The ability to work independently.
3. The ability to become knowledgeable of gopher tortoise and burrow identification.
4. Excellent communication skills.
5. Ability to work in the field where light exertion to arduous exertion is possible.
6. Basic computer skills are helpful but not required.

AGE REQUIREMENTS

Must be 18 years of age or accompanied by parent or legal guardian.

EXPERIENCE

Prior experience is beneficial but not required.

TRAINING REQUIRED

A training manual is available online.

LENGTH OF COMMITMENT

There is no time commitment for this program. It is a self-directed volunteer program where you may collect and submit data any time you desire.

BENEFITS TO VOLUNTEER

1. Learn about gopher tortoises and basic gopher tortoise biology.
2. Satisfaction of knowing how important your role is in protecting a threatened species.
3. Students can use volunteer hours for graduation requirements.
4. Great addition to resume!