



VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION

TITLE: Manatee Watch Volunteer
LOCATION: Volusia County, Florida
REPORT TO: Debbie Wingfield, Program Coordinator

OVERVIEW OF POSITION

The manatee is a listed threatened species that is protected by federal and state laws. They are frequently seen in Volusia County. With the help of volunteers, we can get a better understanding of how manatees are utilizing Volusia County waterways. Volunteers provide much needed information including the condition, behavior, and location of the manatees that are sighted. Training on how to document manatee sightings, properly photograph, and sketch manatee scarring patterns are provided to each volunteer. Volunteers will receive a training packet to take home. The program is designed for individuals or groups with a desire to help preserve one of Florida's most precious species. This is an excellent opportunity for individuals, families, scout groups and other civic organizations. Keep watch and save a life!

Note: Manatee Watch volunteers will be asked to agree that they are not law enforcement officers, government representatives, or a rescue team. Volunteers are also asked to agree that they will not actively pursue, approach, disturb, harass, harm or in any way interact with a manatee in order to document the animal.

SPECIFIC TASKS

1. From a home, dock, boat, fishing pier, shoreline, etc., observe the manatee's behavior, scars, and overall condition.
2. Take photos and/or video of the manatee if possible.
3. Fill out a sighting report.
4. Fill out a photo documentation log (if applicable).
5. Fill out the scar sheet.
6. Print out a location map, or document sighting location through GPS or Google Earth.
7. Submit information on online data form. (Regular mail and/or e-mail is also accepted)

TIME REQUIRED

1. Take the two hour training program.
2. No time requirement for sighting manatees; volunteers may spend as much time as they are able to.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. The desire and motivation to help ensure the survival of the threatened Florida Manatee.
2. Access to Volusia County waterways.
3. The ability to understand and abide by all federal and state laws.

AGE REQUIREMENTS

Must be 18 years of age. May be 16 years of age if adult is present.

EXPERIENCE

No prior experience required.

TRAINING REQUIRED

Two hour training will be provided.

LENGTH OF COMMITMENT

No minimum.

BENEFITS TO VOLUNTEER

1. Learn about one of Florida's threatened marine mammals and what we can do to help them.
2. Satisfaction of knowing how important your role is in increasing their chance of survival.
3. Receive regular Manatee Watch Updates on Manatee Watch Program news.
4. Volunteers who turn in three sighting reports will receive the official Manatee Watch t-shirt!
5. Students can use volunteer hours for graduation requirements.
6. Great addition to resume!