

What is Washback Watchers?



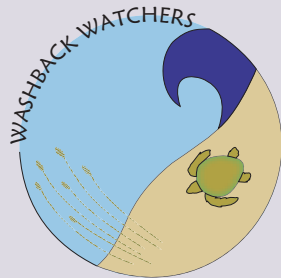
Beachcombers interested in searching for more than seashells on Volusia County beaches can join Washback Watchers, a volunteer team that is trained to locate and rescue young sea turtles that wash ashore due to heavy winds and surf. Participants look for the turtles among accumulations of seaweed within different beach zones.



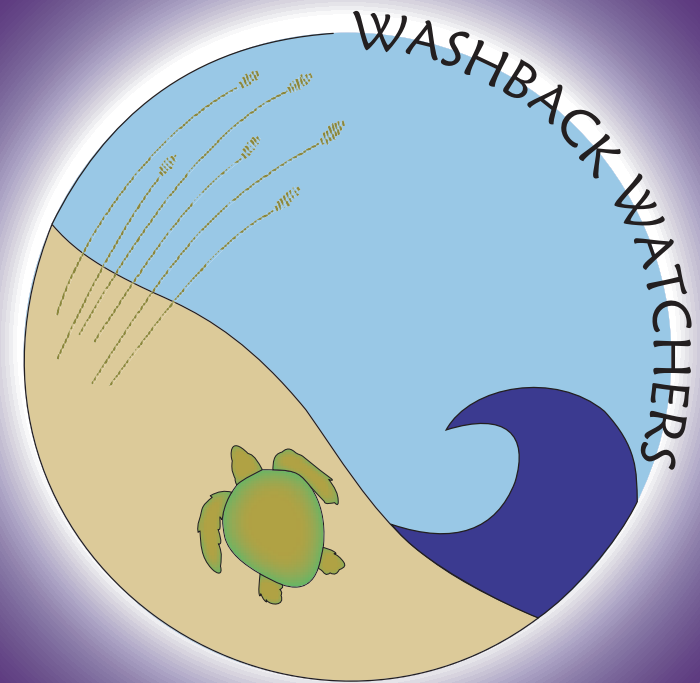
Washback Watchers

440 South Beach Street

Daytona Beach, FL 32114



Washback Watchers



Join Washback Watchers and rescue young sea turtles on Volusia County Beaches.

What are Washbacks?



Washbacks are very young sea turtles that have spent weeks at sea and then wash ashore with seaweed. When these small turtles (generally 2-5 inches in length) are on the beach, they are at risk of being injured by vehicles and other hazards. Washbacks typically occur during high tides in August through November.

Washback turtles have been battling high winds and heavy surf and are in a weakened condition. Therefore, Watchers must be specially trained to rescue the turtles and transport them to a designated location.

Sea turtles are ancient creatures that have been on Earth for more than 100 million years. They have nested on Volusia County beaches for 10,000 years, but now, they are on the brink of extinction.

Though sea turtles are protected as threatened or endangered under state and federal law, their future relies on a joint effort from everyone who uses the beach.

Washback Watchers has been formed as a partnership between Volusia County Environmental Management, the Marine Science Center, the Volusia County Beach Patrol, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Volusia Turtle Patrol, and the Volusia Sea Turtle Society.



All Washback Watchers must attend a classroom training session and a beach practice session before they receive the special authorization required to participate in washback rescues.



For more information on the program, please contact Volusia County Environmental Management at (386) 239-6414 ext. 34, or visit <http://volusia.org/environmental>.

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