



VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION

TITLE: Washback Watcher
LOCATION: Volusia County, Florida
REPORT TO: Jennifer Winters, HCP Program Manager

OVERVIEW OF POSITION

Sea Turtle Washback season runs annually from August 1st through November 30th. During this time frame, Washback Watcher volunteers aide in finding and rescuing imperiled post-hatchling sea turtles found among accumulations of seaweed along their favorite section of beach. Washback sea turtles typically wash in with seaweed during weather changes, onshore northeast winds, or major storm events. There are 7 sections of beach, each 5 miles long for volunteers to choose as their survey zone. Volusia County's HCP staff will call each volunteer to inform them when fresh seaweed washes in their zone. Each volunteer will choose a primary zone for calling purposes, but may survey any portion of any zone when fresh seaweed is present. Training is a requirement to become a member of the Washback Watcher team and is typically held in June or July each year.

SPECIFIC TASKS

1. Obtain a permit card by attending annual training.
2. Respond to calls of fresh seaweed on the beach.
3. Survey beach for washback sea turtles.
4. Complete and submit survey logs.
5. Complete and submit chain of custody logs.
6. Identifying, handling and transporting washback sea turtles.

TIME REQUIRED

THERE IS NO TIME REQUIREMENT FOR THIS PROGRAM. PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND WASHBACK WATCHER TRAINING PRIOR TO BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE WASHBACK WATCHER TEAM.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. The desire and motivation to find and rescue imperiled post-hatchling sea turtles.
2. The ability to attend a two hour training course.
3. The ability to work independently and in a team setting.
4. The ability to become knowledgeable of sea turtle identification, handling and transportation.
5. Excellent communication skills.
6. Ability to lift up to 25 pounds.
7. Ability to work in the field where light to moderate exertion is possible.
8. Basic computer skills are helpful but not required.

AGE REQUIREMENTS

Must be 18 years of age. Under the age of 18 requires a parent or guardian to be present at all times.

EXPERIENCE

Prior experience is beneficial but not required.

TRAINING REQUIRED

A two hour training is required for all new Washback Watchers and annual one hour trainings are required for all returning Washback Watchers.

LENGTH OF COMMITMENT

Washback season runs annually from August 1st through November 30th. You may be called upon at any time during these months to search your section of beach for post-hatchling sea turtles.

BENEFITS TO VOLUNTEER

1. Learn about sea turtles and basic sea turtle biology.
2. Satisfaction of knowing how important your role is in finding and rescuing imperiled post-hatchling sea turtles.
3. Students can use volunteer hours for graduation requirements.
4. Great addition to resume!