

Leatherback Sea turtle Program 2022, Tortuguero, Costa Rica

Education and Outreach Assistant

Project Description: Environmental Education and Community Outreach with a conservation sea turtle organization.

Organization: Sea Turtle Conservancy (Former Caribbean Conservation Corporation)

Location: Sea Turtle Conservancy Biological Station, Tortuguero, Costa Rica

Dates: 19th March to 12th June

Deadline to apply: 15th January, 2022

Project's Summary:

Research and monitoring of sea turtles in Tortuguero, Costa Rica was initiated in the 1950's by legendary sea turtle researcher Dr Archie Carr. Dr Carr continued his work in Tortuguero until his passing away in 1987. In 1995, the STC started the Leatherback Program to study leatherback sea turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) in the area. Each year, from March to June, the researchers from STC collect data about this threatened species. The intensive program combines monitoring and research activities with **an education and outreach program in the local community.**

Work description:

A group of assistants will participate in the leatherback turtle season. The team will be conformed by people from all over the world, emphasizing people from Latin-American and Caribbean countries. 4 Research Assistants (RAs), divided in two periods of a month and a half, will be focused in the field work while the **Environmental Outreach Assistant (EOA)**, who will be working for the entire 3 months for the leatherback season, will be more focused in the educational work.

At the beginning of the Program, the Research and Field Coordinator (RFC) will capacitate the RAs and the **EOA** in the field work, including night patrols, morning census and nest monitoring and excavation. You will learn how to tag the turtles, take biometric data, register nesting activity during morning census and other abilities related to data collection.

After field training, the RAs will focus on the monitoring and field activities, while the **EOA** will concentrate on the **development of the Educational and Outreach Program** under the supervision of the **Environmental and Outreach Coordinator (EOC)**. Main tasks the **EOA** will be involved with are:

- Working in educational centers (kinder, school and high-school)
- Working in extra-curricular activities (library, festivals, Junior Assistant Program, beach-cleanings...)
- Assisting a local environmental certificate for restaurants and hotels
- Assisting with activity-design process, according to EOA's experience.

- Assisting in educational material creation, according to EOA's experience. Assisting in outreach work (Social media, community announcements...) according to EOA's experience.

Besides, the **EOA** will, as possible, help with the field work as well as assisting in the STC's Visitor's Center, giving information about STC's work to the visitors. Plus, all the Assistants will be involved in helping out with eco-volunteer's training, who will stay in the station for a short period of time, as well as supervising volunteer groups during beach patrols.

Monitoring activities during the Leatherback Turtle Program are carried out along 30 km (=18 miles) of nesting beach. Beach patrols require walking many kilometers in extremely soft sand and in very extreme weather conditions; therefore, an excellent physical condition is a requirement for the RA and **EOA** positions.

Desired skills

- Native Spanish and good knowledge of English
- Education in Pedagogy, Education careers Environmental Sciences, Sociology, Anthropology or related fields, with a social/educational perspective.
- Previous educational experience in rural communities, preferably in Latin America.
- Experience working/living in multicultural environments, experience working/living in isolated locations for extended periods
- Previous experience in fieldwork
- Availability for the entire period of the program greatly improve your chances of being selected for a position.

Information about the application process:

EOA positions are voluntary and the selected person is expected to plan and finance his/her own travel to and from Tortuguero. Selected **EOA** will receive board and lodging at the STC Field Station for the duration of his/her time working for STC in Tortuguero.

To apply, please send the following documents:

- Completed Application Form (see following page)
- A cover letter explaining why you are interested in the **Education and Outreach Assistant** position; include details of any relevant experience and a statement of your level of proficiency in English and Spanish (either a formal qualification or an indication of your written/oral comprehension)
- A CV or resume with pertinent information
- The names and e-mail contact details of three professional references

**2022 Leatherback Turtle Program at Tortuguero, Costa Rica
Education and Outreach Assistant Application Form**

FULL NAME		AGE	
ADDRESS			
TELEPHONE NUMBER			
E-MAIL			
SKYPE			
DATES OF AVAILABILITY Please indicate below when would you be available:			
FROM		TO	

To apply, please fill in this form and send it together with the previously detailed documents to Laia Nadal at her email: outreach@conserveturtles.org

Your application should arrive no later than **15th January 2022**. Short-listed candidates will be contacted within two weeks of the application deadline. Please **do not phone or e-mail** to inquire about the status of your application. **Applicants that do not supply all requested materials will not be considered.**