

2023 Green Turtle Program at Tortuguero, Costa Rica Research Assistant Application Information

Project description: Conservation and monitoring of endangered green turtles

Organization: Sea Turtle Conservancy (Formerly Caribbean Conservation Corporation)

Location: STC Field Station, Tortuguero, Costa Rica

Dates: **Group 1:** June 7 – August 20, 2023

Group 2: August 14 – November 1, 2023

These are hard dates and will not be changed. Please **do not apply** if your availability does not match dates for either group.

Application Deadline: [March 13, 2023](#)

Project 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 and each year from June - November Sea Turtle Conservancy (STC) conducts the Green Turtle Program, continuing the work started by Dr Carr. STC works closely with Costa Rican authorities, the Tortuguero community and other sea turtle conservation organizations in the country. Information collected during the annual Green Turtle Program plays a key role in developing effective management strategies for sea turtles in the area.

Work description:

A total of **16** research assistants (RAs) will be trained on sea turtle monitoring techniques by, and work under the supervision of, the STC Field Research Coordinator. The season is divided into two time periods, June - August and August - November, with **eight RAs** in each time period. The RA team will be made up of individuals from several countries from around the world, with an emphasis on Latin America and the Caribbean. The primary responsibilities of the RAs will include nightly tagging patrols, morning track surveys, nest monitoring and excavation. RAs are responsible for tagging nesting turtles, collecting biometric data from females, recording nesting activity during track surveys, and other pertinent data collection.

Monitoring activities during the Green Turtle Program are carried out along 8 km of nesting beach. RAs can expect to work very long hours, throughout the day and night, often with little sleep. 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 positions.

RAs are also involved in training short-term paying volunteers in all aspects of the monitoring protocol and supervising volunteer groups during beach patrols. The RAs will work with the STC Education and Outreach Coordinator and the Education and Outreach Assistants to develop and participate in various environmental awareness and educational activities with members of the Tortuguero community, and they will be required to assist in the STC Visitor Center to provide information about the work of STC to members of the public.

Information about Research Assistant Application

- **Research Assistantship (RA) positions are voluntary and selected RAs are expected to plan and finance their own travel to and from Tortuguero.**
- **Selected RAs will receive at no cost to them while at the STC Tortuguero Field Station for the duration of their time working:**
 - **Three hot meals and lodging**
 - **Room cleaning and laundry services**
 - **Internet (slow) access**
 - **Proper training and permits to work on the beach**

Although there are no strict requirements, good knowledge of English and Spanish, education in biology or related fields, previous fieldwork experience in the tropics, experience working/living in multicultural environments, experience working/living in isolated locations for extended periods, previous experience in environmental education and availability for the entire period of the program greatly improve your chances of being selected for a position.

STC alumni RAs have gone on to work for conservation organizations, universities and government agencies worldwide.

To apply, please fill out the Application Form (see following page) and send to Dr. Roldán A. Valverde at roldan@conserveturtles.org, together with:

- A cover letter explaining why you are interested in a Research Assistant position, details of any relevant experience and a statement of your level of proficiency in English and Spanish
- A CV or resume with other pertinent information
- Names and e-mail contact details of three professional referees

Your application should arrive no later than **March 13, 2023**. Short-listed candidates will be contacted approximately 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.**

**2023 Green Turtle Program at Tortuguero, Costa Rica
Research Assistant Application Form**

FULL NAME		AGE	GENDER M <input type="radio"/> F <input type="radio"/>
ADDRESS			
TELEPHONE NUMBER			
E-MAIL			
SKYPE			
DATES OF AVAILABILITY			
Please indicate below for which group you would be available. If both, which one you would prefer.			
GROUP 1 7 June – 20 August, 2023		GROUP 2 14 August – 1 November, 2023	