



Escambia County Sea Turtle Conservation Program FAQ's



1. How can I volunteer to help the Escambia County Marine Turtle program?

The Sea Turtle Conservation Program has two types of volunteers: Sea Turtle Patrol and the Sea Turtle Ambassador program. All volunteers are required to be background-checked per Escambia County policy.

Sea Turtle Patrol: Patrol volunteers conduct daily surveys of Escambia County beaches May 1st through October 31st and assist with evening nest "spot checks", disorientations and stranding events. Mandatory training is provided free of charge by Escambia County. The Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission (FWC) limits the number of volunteer Escambia County may have on a marine turtle permit, and as many of our patrol volunteers return each year, spots are limited.

Sea Turtle Ambassadors: Ambassadors help engage and educate the public in sea turtle conservation. Hours and activities are varied, but Ambassadors will spend a majority of their volunteer hours on our beaches and fishing piers, talking to the public. Ambassadors may also assist with education programs at area schools and organizations and help engage local businesses in sea turtle conservation practices. Training is provided by Escambia County free of charge and no prior experience is required. Ambassadors are only asked to have a positive attitude and a passion for sea turtle conservation!

Volunteer applications typically close at the end of February. If you wish to volunteer and/or have extensive experience in marine turtle conservation, please contact Mark Nicholas at manicholas@myescambia.com.

2. How old do I have to be to volunteer?

Per County Policy, volunteers must be at least 18 years of age.

3. How many hours are required to volunteer?

Patrol volunteers must commit at least one morning a week to daily patrol and be available for evening spot checks and stranding events as needed. Ambassador requirements are more flexible, but volunteers should expect to commit at least 8 hours a month. All volunteers are required to attend a mandatory training session, typically held in April.

4. Where does this all occur?

Daily patrols take place along the entire length of county owned beaches on both Santa Rosa Island and Perdido Key. Outreach activities include both islands as well as other locations with Escambia County. Meetings and training sessions are typically held at the County Central Office Complex in on Fairfield Drive.

5. Is there a website with additional information?

Yes, please visit www.myescambia.com/seaturtles