

2012 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: 4 June – 19 August, 2012

Group 2: 13 August – 1 November, 2012

Application Deadline: 12 March, 2012

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 in 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 (=5 miles) 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 Outreach and Education Coordinator 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 board and lodging at the STC Field Station for the duration of their time working for STC in Tortuguero.

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.

**2012 Green Turtle Program at Tortuguero, Costa Rica
Research Assistant Application Form**

NAME: _____ AGE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE (Home): _____ (Work): _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

EMPLOYER/EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION: _____

DO YOU HAVE A CURRENT PASSPORT: YES _____ NO _____

DATES OF AVAILABILITY:

Please indicate for which group you would be available:

GROUP 1 (4 June – 19 August): _____

GROUP 2 (13 August – 1 November): _____

To apply, please fill out this form (or a copy) and send 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

To:

Research Assistant Program
Sea Turtle Conservancy (Formerly Caribbean Conservation Corporation)
Apartado Postal 246-2050
San Pedro, COSTA RICA

or

Fax: (506) 2297-6576

or

Email: emma@conserveturtles.org

This information should be at our office at the latest on **Monday 12 March, 2012**. 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.