

TEAM TERRAPIN



Team Terrapin volunteers enable the Florida Department of Environmental Protection/Florida State Parks and the Turtle Survival Alliance to have a better understanding of Diamondback terrapin conservation in our region by conducting regular monitoring of a nesting population around North Florida. Our work provides robust, comprehensive data to continue decades of research on a large, imperiled Diamondback terrapin population.

Key Responsibilities

- Monitor study sites around North Florida for Diamondback terrapins and nests, according to schedule.
- Safely and accurately collect morphometric data on live captures
- Coordinate and communicate with fellow volunteers to work as part of a team.
- Complete data sheets with care and precision for accurate reporting.
- Communicate regularly to Team Terrapin coordinator to address any questions or issues.

Location

Duval County, Florida

Skills and Qualifications

- 18 years or older, unless with prior approval and accompanied by parent or guardian (10yr old minimum).
- Ability to lift, maneuver, carry, launch and paddle 30lb kayak a distance of a mile (unless monitoring Big Talbot Island only).
- Ability to walk 5 miles on uneven terrain while carrying approximately 5 lb. of supplies, during the extreme heat of the summer.
- Attention to detail and methodical data recording.
- Patience to meticulously search for nests.
- A passion for wildlife conservation!

Time Commitment

Volunteers commit to monitoring in pairs, preferably, unless approved by leads to do solo monitoring. Shifts start during the early morning – either once every week, or once every other week. Volunteers must commit to at least two days per month. Each monitoring trip lasts 2-5 hours depending on the time of year. A monthly schedule is established based on volunteer availability and preferences.

Length of Appointment

Team Terrapin volunteers monitor from April until the end of September each year.

Training & Support

Volunteers are required to fill out an application and complete training with the Florida State Parks:

<https://volunteers.floridastateparks.org/>

They will also be required to complete kayak safety training provided by the Florida State Parks.

Field training is required to learn how to accurately weigh, measure, hard-mark and inject Passive Integrated Transponders (PITs) through TSA Volunteer Science. Participants are required to attend at least one field training session.

A training orientation is held each year before the start of the monitoring season. New volunteers are also accompanied by Team Terrapin staff or experienced volunteers during initial monitoring sessions, until they are comfortable with all protocols. The Team Terrapin staff are in constant communication with team members and team members send daily updates to the team via Homebase app. Members will be sent an invitation to download the app. Team Terrapin staff and senior members are available for support or continued training throughout the season.

Volunteer Benefits

- Skill development in wildlife biology & monitoring
- Knowledge in the life history of a unique saltmarsh species
- Contributing to the protection of a threatened species
- Connection to a community of volunteers with similar interests

Contact Information

Tabitha Hootman
904-704-6543
thootman@turtlesurvival.org

Allison Conboy
904-726-2899
Allison.Conboy@FloridaDEP.gov

Wade Smith
904-251-2811
Wade.T.Smith@FloridaDep.gov