



Florida Springs Surveys

About: Plunge into Florida's natural springs, where crystalline waters bubble from ancient boils and flow through vibrant runs alive with fish, turtles, and aquatic plants. Join our team as a volunteer and play exciting hands-on roles: snorkeling through these crystal-clear waters to safely capture turtles, paddling alongside to receive turtles from snorkelers, helping on shore to transfer turtles from canoes and keep species bins organized and escape-proof, and assisting with measuring, weighing, and recording the vital data that drives conservation forward.

Where: North and Central Florida, USA (precise location will be provided by the Point of Contact)

Samplers: For this role, **strong swimmers with confident snorkeling skills** will have the opportunity to swim in public swimming areas, as well as spring runs, to hand-capture turtles and swim back either to a canoe or the shore, where other volunteers will retrieve the turtles.

Samplers will need:

- Wetsuit (3 mm)
- Mask and snorkel
- Fins
- Nitrile-coated work or dive gloves

Samplers are recommended to have:

- 1-2 towels
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Hat
- Sunglasses
 - Sunglass strap
- A personal camera, if you want to document your experience
- Change of clothes (after snorkeling)
- Water or electrolyte beverages and snacks (these should be left in your car or a cooler, not brought out while sampling)

Canoers / Kayakers: Volunteers interested in this role should be moderately experienced with paddling a canoe or kayak and prepared to paddle against a gentle spring current. These volunteers will retrieve turtles from snorkelers and place them in bins or in their vessels. Additional responsibilities include watching for potential hazards or dangerous situations that snorkelers may not notice from below the water's surface (snags, wildlife, other boaters, etc.).

Kayakers are recommended to have:

- Appropriate clothing recommendations:
 - Swimsuit
 - Long- or short-sleeved polyester or polyester-blend shirt
 - Polyester or synthetic blend shorts or leggings
 - “Old” clothing (heavy clothing is not recommended)
 - Nitrile coated gloves (we do provide a selection of gloves you can borrow)
- 1-2 towels
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Hat
- Sunglasses
 - Sunglass strap
- A personal camera, if you want to document your experience
- Change of clothes
- Water or electrolyte beverages, snacks, and lunch (snacks and lunch should be left in your car or a cooler, not brought out while sampling)

Shore Support and Data Collection: Volunteers in these roles may assist with a variety of tasks, including retrieving turtles from snorkelers and monitoring them in bins; organizing bins and turtles at data headquarters; helping measure and weigh turtles; recording data in a notebook; and assisting with setting up and taking down supplies at data headquarters. Everyone is welcome to observe.

Shore Support and Data Collectors are recommended to have:

- Appropriate clothing recommendations:
 - Long- or short-sleeved polyester or polyester-blend shirt
 - Polyester or synthetic blend shorts or leggings
 - “Old” clothing (heavy clothing is not recommended)
 - Nitrile coated gloves (we do provide a selection of gloves you can borrow)
- 1-2 towels
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Hat
- Sunglasses
 - Sunglass strap
- A personal camera, if you want to document your experience
- Water or electrolyte beverages, snacks, and lunch

[Code of Conduct](#)

Point of Contact: Shannon Letcher <sletcher@turtlesurvival.org>