



Lowcountry Diamondback Terrapin Project

About: Venture into South Carolina's tidal salt marsh, where winding creeks are alive with turtles, birds, crabs, fish, and stingrays. As a volunteer, you'll have the opportunity to immerse yourself in a new study spearheaded by the Port Royal Sound Foundation and the University of South Carolina–Beaufort. Based at Coastal Expeditions Beaufort, you'll plunge into a brackish tidal creek, dragging seine nets through the water driven by teamwork and determination. Expect to push through thick, often deep mud as you work together to capture turtles, then assist with processing, measuring, weighing, marking, and recording vital data that is foundational to this study. The work is grueling but deeply rewarding—muddy, memorable, and meaningful.

Where: Beaufort, South Carolina, USA

Samplers: As we will be pulling large seine nets through muddy tidal creeks, sampling can be grueling, and it's critical that you listen carefully to instructions and are always looking for ways you can help. **You MUST be able to swim** to actively pull seines and work in the water.

Samplers will need:

- **Old, but sturdy, laced tennis shoes or athletic cleats.** Sandals, Crocs, water shoes, and boots will come off in the mud and you will likely slice your feet on oysters. Double-tied and tight!
- Tall socks (to reduce oyster nicks and cuts)
- 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)

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 getting wet and muddy)
- Plenty of water or electrolyte beverages and snacks (these should be left in your car or a cooler, not brought out while sampling)

Kayakers: If you'd like to participate in the field but prefer not to pull seine nets, you're still welcome to join us by kayak. Kayaking allows participants to spot terrapin heads to assist with captures and offers great opportunities for photography—all without getting wet.

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)
- 1-2 towels
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Hat
- Sunglasses
 - Sunglass strap
- A personal camera, if you want to document your experience
- Plenty of water or electrolyte beverages and snacks

Turtle Data Collection: The data collection center for marking and measuring turtles will be at Coastal Expeditions Beaufort. Direct participation in this process is limited to a few experienced people, but others will have opportunities to learn and assist. Everyone is welcome to observe.

Turtle Processors 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)
- 1-2 towels
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Hat
- Sunglasses
 - Sunglass strap
- A personal camera, if you want to document your experience
- Plenty of water or electrolyte beverages and snacks

Code of Conduct

Point of Contact: Jordan Gray <jgray@turtlesurvival.org>