



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Hawaii Volcanoes National Park
Resources Management Division
P. O. Box 52
Hawaii National Park, HI 96718-0052
808/985-6086
808/985-6029 (FAX)

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your inquiry into the 2013 season of the Hawaii Island Hawksbill Turtle Recovery Project. We will begin selecting applicants in early 2013. The following is some background information on our project and a description of the volunteer duties and requirements.

Since 1989, volunteers have assisted project biologists with monitoring, protecting, and collecting baseline data on nesting hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*). The endangered hawksbill is very rare throughout the world. Hawksbills in Hawaii face numerous threats, including non-native predators, invasive plants, artificial lights, vehicular traffic, and ocean debris. While approximately 90% of documented nesting in the Hawaiian Islands occurs on the southern coastline of Hawaii Island, only 100 nesting turtles have been tagged since 1991. Typically 5 to 15 nesting turtles and 25 to 50 nests are documented per season.

For the 2013 season, approximately 12 volunteers will at any given time be needed to monitor the nesting beaches from June to December (possibly later). Volunteers commit to work on the project for a minimum of 10 weeks and preference will be given to applicants who can commit to a longer term. Exceptions can be made for Hawaii Island residents who are able to provide their own housing and transportation to and from the National Park.

Applicants are not required to have prior experience working with sea turtles. Successful applicants will be self-motivated, conservation-minded, and able to get along well with others. A positive attitude, diligent work ethic, and a love for the outdoors are a must.

Turtle Volunteers must:

- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Possess a valid driver's license (U.S. or international).
- Possess current first aid and CPR card
- Be able to commit to work on the project for a minimum of 10 weeks. Preference given to those able to commit longer. (for exceptions, see above).
- Be able to hike up to 12 miles over rugged lava terrain in difficult conditions with a 30+ pound backpack.
- Be able to hike and work in vog (sulphur dioxide emitted from the nearby volcano, which can be problematic for people with respiratory concerns).
- Be able to get along well with others.
- Be able to stay awake late at night.

Turtle Volunteer duties include:

- **Camping from 6 up to 12 consecutive nights** at remote beaches with a project technician or other trained volunteers.

- **Conducting nightly watches** (from 5 p.m. until at least 2 a.m.) to observe nesting turtles and emerging hatchlings.
- **Hiking up to 12 miles** (one-way) over rugged lava terrain with a 30+ pound backpack to reach field sites.
- **4-wheel driving** on long, bumpy roads to reach field sites.
- **Day-checking other nesting beaches** on a regular basis to look for signs of turtle activity by hiking up to 12 miles (one-way) or 4-wheel driving.
- **Handling adult turtles**, which includes restraining, measuring, applying flipper tags, and checking for injuries.
- **Ensuring that hatchlings reach the ocean** by monitoring nests that are ready to hatch, rescuing stranded hatchlings, and excavating nests.
- **Recording baseline data**, which includes keeping a field notebook, filling out data sheets, drawing maps, and entering data into the computer.
- **Controlling predators** by baiting and checking live-traps daily and euthanizing mongooses, feral cats, and rats using carbon dioxide gas.
- **Picking up trash** and debris along the coastline.
- **Photographing** turtle activity if needed.
- **Interacting with and educating the local community** about sea turtle conservation on a regular basis both in the field and in formal presentations.
- **Assisting project technicians** with logistics such as equipment and camp maintenance, vehicle inspections, office work, and various other duties as assigned.
- **Keeping volunteer houses clean** and following all housing policy rules.(if living in housing)

Shared dorm style housing can be provided at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. The housing is located near the project's office and National Park's visitor center in a rainforest environment at an elevation of 4,000 feet. Bedrooms are shared by multiple volunteers. A \$10 per work day food stipend will be provided, although additional funds are needed to supplement this stipend for basic needs and entertainment. Furthermore, a vehicle will not be provided for personal transportation.

It can take several weeks for your application to be processed, so please be patient. You will be notified of your status by either phone or e-mail. If you are accepted, a detailed information packet will be sent to you. You must arrive at least one day prior to your orientation date, which will be scheduled when you are accepted. Transportation to and from the National Park from Hilo is provided on your arrival and departure dates.

If you have any questions or would like to find out more information, please contact us by either phone (808) 985-6090 or e-mail hawksbillturtleproject@gmail.com. Visit us on the web at: <http://www.nps.gov/havo/naturescience/turtles.htm>

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS CAN BE MAILED, E-MAILED, OR FAXED

Mailing Address: Hawaii Island Hawksbill Turtle Recovery Project
Resources Management Division
P.O. Box 52
Hawaii National Park, HI 96718
E-mail Address: Hawksbillturtleproject@gmail.com Fax: (808) 985-6029

Thank you for your interest in protecting Hawaii's hawksbill turtles.

2013 Hawaii Island Hawksbill Turtle Recovery Project Volunteer Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Day () _____ Evening () _____

E-mail address:

Birthdate: _____

How did you find out about this project? _____

Why do you want to volunteer for this project?

Dates available to volunteer: _____ to _____

Predator control is a high priority of this project. Volunteers are trained in the procedure of

dispatching mongooses, feral cats, and rats using carbon dioxide gas. All volunteers are required to euthanize trapped predators. Are you comfortable with this aspect of the program? YES NO
Do you possess a valid driver's license (U.S. or international)? YES NO
Many of our sites are accessible only by 4-wheel drive. Do you have any 4-wheel drive experience? YES NO Can you drive a standard transmission? YES NO

Will you be able to provide your own sleeping bag and large frame pack?
Sleeping Bag: YES NO Pack: YES NO

Are you currently certified in First Aid and CPR? YES NO

Education:

Name and Location of Universities or Colleges Attended or Attending: _____

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Major area of studies:

Degrees obtained: _____ Date obtained: _____

Pertinent Courses: _____

(Attach a separate sheet if necessary)

Outdoor field experience:

Describe relevant experience: _____

Work Experience from two of your most recent jobs/ internships/ volunteer experiences:

1. Name and address of employer: _____

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Name, phone #, and e-mail address of immediate supervisor: _____

—

Your job title: _____

Dates employed: _____ to

Average number of work hours per week? _____

Description of Duties: _____
_____ (Attach a separate sheet if necessary)

2. Name and address of employer: _____

—

Name, phone #, and e-mail address of immediate supervisor: _____

Your job title: _____

Dates employed: _____ to

Average number of work hours per week? _____

Description of Duties: _____
_____ (Attach a separate sheet if necessary)

References:

List three work or school related references who know about your qualifications for the position.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____ E-mail: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____ E-mail: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____ E-mail: _____

Signature of applicant: _____

Date: _____

**PLEASE INCLUDE A RESUME AND COVER LETTER WITH YOUR
APPLICATION**