



Sea Turtle Protection & Nighttime Tagging Internship

Bald Head Island Conservancy

Term of Internship May 10 - August 8, 2021.

Interns must be available for the entire length of term. Graduates may have the opportunity to extend their internship.

Description

The Bald Head Island Conservancy (BHIC) is a non-profit environmental organization founded in 1983 on Bald Head Island to conserve local wildlife, monitor island ecosystems, and provide educational experiences to island visitors and residents. BHIC interns help to advance the Conservancy's mission today as we ***Discover, Learn, Conserve, and Preserve***. The internship program is designed to provide young professionals with hands-on work experience at a small, environmental non-profit organization. The Conservancy's Sea Turtle Protection Program was also established in 1983 in cooperation with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Sea Turtle interns work a nocturnal schedule from **9 pm - 6 am - 4 nights on 1 night off**, conducting beach patrols on foot or via Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTV) to encounter and protect nesting sea turtles and support scientific research. Each patrol is different as there may be nights when no turtles are encountered and there may be nights when multiple turtle activities take place simultaneously.

Position Responsibilities

- Conducting daily morning patrols in early May from 6 am - 7am
- Conducting night patrols from mid May - Early August
- Identifying nesting turtles via flipper tags & Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags
- Applying new tags and measuring standard sea turtle morphometrics
- Data collection/management for BHIC scientists & research collaborators
- Collecting biological samples for BHIC scientists & research collaborators
- Relocating imperiled nests and excavating nests to determine hatch and emerge success
- Maintaining field equipment and vehicles
- Educating public about sea turtle ecology and beach etiquette during nesting process
- Assisting STPC in response to sea turtle strandings including participation in necropsies
- Assisting with various duties associated with non-profit business management

Qualifications

- Rising juniors, seniors, or recent graduates from an accredited college or university
- Background or degree in Marine Science/Biology/Ecology/Env. Science or related field
- Excellent communication skills and comfort interacting with diverse groups of people
- Proficiency with MS Office and good handwriting
- Ability to both be self-directed and work closely within a small team
- Ability to persevere under stressful conditions in a physically challenging environment
- Ability to remain alert and focused during overnight hours
- Valid Driver's License, be able to lift 40 lbs, and pass background check

Compensation

Interns will receive a stipend of \$400 per month (pre-tax). Interns are required to live in shared housing in the BHIC dorm (provided), and share a bedroom with 3-5 other interns. Also included are parking for a vehicle at Deep Point Marina and weekly ferry tickets for trips between the island and the mainland (total value of benefits = \$560/month).

Details

Average work week is 55 hrs, with 1 day off per week. Weekend work is required.

COVID-19 Readiness

Offers are dependent upon housing availability due to COVID-19 requirements. Summer 2021 interns are likely to be subject to COVID-19 protocols, such as restrictions on overnight travel, face coverings, daily health checks, and increased cleaning protocols.

Application Instructions

Send a cover letter, resume, and contact information for 3 references as *one PDF attachment* to intern@bhic.org. Subject line should read: "Sea Turtle Internship Application". *Failure to send all materials in one file with the subject line above by the application deadline may result in your application not being reviewed. Application Deadline: January 20, 2021*

Top candidates will be invited for an interview via video conference. Please give us at least one month past the application deadline to carefully review applications. For questions, visit bhic.org/internships or email Sea Turtle Program Coordinator, Paul Hillbrand, at seaturtle@bhic.org.

Other BHIC summer internships are available: visit bhic.org/internships for details and apply to each position separately. The BHIC welcomes applicants of all races, religions, abilities, genders, and sexual orientations.