

Volunteer Position Description: Surveys will be conducted nightly on foot from 8 pm until 6 am on our two main leatherback nesting beaches, North Friars and Cayon to Keys. Each female leatherback will undergo a health assessment each time she visits the beach during the season (April 1 through July 31) and each nest will be excavated post first emergence. Volunteers who will be tagging and leading groups must be able to answer basic questions regarding all of the nesting species on St. Kitts, their natural history, and biology. You must also be familiar with appropriate locations for blood draws; how to process samples; organize a field kit; and many other responsibilities. Research assistants who will be joining us this season must meet certain requirements; these apply to those joining us from off island as well as those from St. Kitts. This work requires a special person, as does all field work. You must be able to work in a diverse group and be adaptable to a variety of field situations. You could be tagging in a torrential down pour or preparing blood smears in dim light and wind. You must be relatively fit and able to walk 3 miles in soft sand. Volunteers will be working 6 days weekly with one day per week off.

Field Responsibilities:

Flipper Tagging

Nest excavation

Data Collection

Preparation of and maintenance of field kits

Acquisition and processing of samples

Morning surveys

Leading educational night walks

Participate in children's camp this summer

Additional Requirements:

Health Insurance

Volunteers are responsible for maintaining the living space and cooking their own meals

Flight expenses to and from the island

Housing:

Housing will be provided for off-island volunteers.