

Guana Tolomato Matanzas Research Reserve

Volunteer Program

To provide meaningful opportunities and rewarding experiences by developing and expanding the capacity of the reserve and accomplish its goals with the help of volunteers.

Volunteers assist with all aspects of the GTM Research Reserve program including resource management, ecosystem science, education and administrative activities. Volunteers give the reserve the ability to accomplish its management and conservation goals at a faster pace and higher level. Each volunteer opportunity, although different, contributes an important part to the organization as a whole.



Volunteer Benefits

- Network both personally and professionally
 - Public speaking opportunities
 - Strengthen leadership skills
 - Complete community service hours
- Attend educational and training opportunities
 - Explore new interests
- Share and increase volunteer's knowledge
 - Recognition and awards for service
 - Reference for future jobs
- Volunteer appreciation events

Volunteer positions are designed to help complete the priority projects in the Unit Management Plan. The following are some of the on-going volunteer positions by team.

Education and Outreach

Estuary Explorer Educator
Exhibit Hall Docents
Outreach Programs Facilitator

Research and Ecosystem Science

Marine Turtle Specialist
Wildlife Monitoring
Fresh Water Marsh Well Monitoring

Resource Management

Invasive Species Eradication

Visitor Management

Front Desk Greeter
Nature Store Assistant

Other Programs

Special Events
Photographers
Data Processing
Cultural and Historical Research

Total Enrollment and Hours

September 2005 – October 2010

Number of current volunteers – 403
Number of volunteers who served hours – 394
Total number of jobs served by volunteers – 73
Average number of hours served per volunteer – 133.08
Number of hours served during this period – 51,103.33



Volunteer Recognition

Volunteer benefits, awards and recognition are linked to the number of hours contributed to the reserve. Tracking the number of volunteer time served also allows the reserve to exhibit the need for more staff and increased budget to the State of Florida governing bodies.

Benefits

- Worker's Compensation
- Education and Training
- Expenses and support reimbursement

Recognition

- Volunteer Recognition Dinner
- Volunteer of the Year Award
- Special Contribution Award
- Team Volunteer Awards

