

# JEKYLL ISLAND AUTHORITY

## JOB POSTING

<b>Job Title:</b>	<b>Research Ecologist</b>
<b>Department/Division:</b>	<b>Georgia Sea Turtle Center (GSTC)</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Regular, Full-time Employee</b>
<b>Pay Grade/Pay:</b>	<b>PG19S / \$52K-58K (Depending on qualifications)</b>
<b>Reports to:</b>	<b>Director/Veterinarian</b>
<b>Benefits:</b>	<b>Full benefits eligible, Amenity Pass, Parking</b>
<b>Retirement:</b>	<b>State Employee Retirement System (GSEPS)</b>

### Job Summary:

The Jekyll Island Authority (JIA) is seeking an experienced researcher to manage the Georgia Sea Turtle Center (GSTC) Research program. Under limited supervision, the Research Ecologist is responsible for collaborating across GSTC initiatives, with other JIA departments, and with external partners such as universities, wildlife agencies, NGOs, and rehabilitation centers, to plan and execute research programs and products. Primary responsibilities include developing and managing various turtle-related research projects; supervision of a research specialist; grant writing, data collection, analysis and reporting; establishment and maintenance of productive relationships with other state agencies and professional organizations. Collaboration with the JIA Conservation Department on non-turtle related research is also expected.

### Description:

- Provide research expertise in support of the JIA/GSTC mission and work directly with other JIA/GSTC staff to develop a broad and collaborative research program in support of GSTC research goals and the JIA conservation plan.
- Supervise Research Specialist who manages the loggerhead sea turtle monitoring program. Continue to develop and maintain specific research centered on this project.
- Assist Research Specialist in coordinating the AmeriCorps/Volunteer Program for the JIA/GSTC research department.
- Manage the budget for the research program including the maintenance of accurate records of purchases, processing invoices in accordance with GSTC, JIA and AmeriCorps requirements, and related financial tasks; reports appropriately to GSTC General Manager.
- Develop and maintain strategic relationships with professional organizations for research and management collaborations.
- Build upon previous GSTC academic partnerships and pursue new opportunities to position GSTC as a leader in cutting-edge research, utilizing students (undergraduate and/or graduate) as appropriate to advance an innovative and distinguished portfolio.
- Pursue grant opportunities; publish in peer reviewed journals; produce reports, articles, graphics, and presentations to highlight research department efforts and products for diverse audiences; respond to media and marketing requests related to GSTC research as appropriate.
- Provide expertise in experimental design, analysis, communication, and applications as needed throughout the GSTC portfolio, and across JIA, interfacing especially with the JIA Conservation Department. Primary concentration areas will be turtle related and may integrate population ecology, environmental science, conservation biology, eco-physiology, species health, toxicology, and other disciplines, depending upon expertise and interests.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

### Qualifications:

- Completion of PhD degree in ecology, marine science, conservation biology, natural resources management, or related field from an accredited institution.
- Minimum of three years' experience leading the design and execution of research programs pertaining to wildlife. Supervisory experience desirable.
- Turtle research experience and familiarity with sea turtle conservation are desirable.
- Must possess strong communication and interpersonal skills, including writing and public speaking; competence in various computer applications (e.g. GIS, various statistical programs) and web-based technology.
- Ability to work independently as well as collaboratively with others.

- Familiarity with budget management, program planning, and program evaluation desirable.
- Must have a valid drivers license

**Physical Requirements/Working Conditions:**

**Physical Requirements:**

- Exert up to 65 pounds of force occasionally, and/or up to 50 pounds frequently, and/or up to 20 pounds constantly to move objects.
- More than 50% of the typical work day may be spent walking, standing or sitting.
- Between 25 and 50% of the day may be spent lifting, reaching, stooping, kneeling, crouching.
- Less than 25% of the day will be spent climbing, balancing, crawling, pulling and grasping.
- Sensory abilities required include vision, hearing and touching with more than 50% of the day spent communicating; talking and hearing.
- Must have close visual clarity to perform up close work such as working with a computer as well as visual clarity to operate motor vehicles.
- The position requires a level of fitness and mental resiliency for variable distances walking through thickly-vegetated woods and on the beach.

**Working Conditions:**

- Work will be performed both inside and outside. Work will be subject to inclement weather including extreme cold and extreme heat, high humidity, and rain.
- Work includes exposure to bugs, wildlife, infectious diseases, vibrations, hazards, and moving vehicles.
- Noise level is considered normal to loud, may require shouting.

This description of job responsibilities is intended to reflect the major responsibilities and duties of the job, but is not intended to describe minor duties or other responsibilities as may be assigned from time to time.

Jekyll Island Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer