

Georgia Sea Turtle Center, Sea Turtle Patrol Research AmeriCorps Member

This position is supported through the federally-funded AmeriCorps program and therefore is considered a term of service.

Duration of Position: March 1, 2021 to August 31, 2021

Application Closing Date: Applications must be submitted no later than 4:00pm December 11, 2020. This position is subject to close at any time once a satisfactory applicant pool has been identified.

Applications must be submitted online at: <https://www.jekyllisland.com/jekyll-island-authority/employment/> and must include a resume, cover letter, and three references.

AmeriCorps: AmeriCorps is a network of national service programs, made up of three primary programs that each take a different approach to improving lives and fostering civic engagement. Members commit their time to address critical community needs like increasing academic achievement, mentoring youth, fighting poverty, sustaining national parks, preparing for disasters, and more. More than 75,000 Americans across the country participate in AmeriCorps each year. All of them are tackle different community needs in different ways to make our people safer, stronger and healthier; to strengthen our communities; and to Get Things Done for America. For information, please visit <https://www.nationalservice.gov>.

The Georgia Sea Turtle Center: The Jekyll Island Authority's Georgia Sea Turtle Center (GSTC) opened on June 16, 2007 and is a state-of-the-art facility focused on sea turtle rehabilitation, research and education. The GSTC is located on beautiful Jekyll Island - a barrier island along Georgia's southeastern coast - and includes an interactive exhibit gallery, a viewing window into the veterinary care area, an elevated walkway through the rehabilitation pavilion, and a gift shop. Visitors take a self-guided tour through the Center, which is enhanced by daily educational programs. The GSTC offers in-house and outreach programs to schools, tour groups and community organizations while also participating in various environmental events in the region.

The Research Department at the Georgia Sea Turtle Center works to better understand the ecology and conservation of turtles on Jekyll Island and in the region while collaborating with other individuals and organizations to study a wide variety of wildlife. Our flagship project is our sea turtle monitoring program, which for many years has generated important data about the Loggerhead Sea Turtles nesting on Jekyll Island. Our research also focuses on implementing Jekyll Island's Conservation Plan. The strategy presented in the Plan includes a mission to preserve, maintain, manage, and restore Jekyll Island's natural communities and species diversity while providing nature-based educational and recreational opportunities for the general public.

Position Description and Essential Functions: The **GSTC Sea Turtle Patrol Research AmeriCorps Member** focuses on sea turtle nest monitoring, sea turtle mark-recapture, and environmental education, although various additional responsibilities are associated with the position.

- **Sea Turtle Tagging** (May-July)
 - Conduct overnight survey transects from 2100-0600 via UTV (~90 km/night) and on foot (~15 km/night) in two teams each comprising at least two people.
 - Locate, identify, flipper tag, PIT tag, and collect morphometric and habitat data on adult nesting Loggerhead Sea Turtles.
 - Collect skin biopsies, eggs, and other biological samples from nesting sea turtles for research collaborators.
 - Mark sea turtle nests with survey flags, protective screens, rebar, and signs.
- **Sea Turtle Nest Monitoring** (May-August)
 - Conduct dawn surveys beginning at ~0600: identify new turtle tracks and nests, locate egg chambers, search for hatchling tracks, and inventory nest contents post-emergence.
 - Operate, maintain, and routinely clean UTVs, GPS units, PIT tag scanners, and other expensive scientific equipment.
 - Enter and proof large amounts of detailed data in Microsoft Excel and Access on a daily basis.
 - Assist with additional sea turtle research collaborations.
- **Public Education and Awareness**
 - Give two nightly presentations (approximately 20 mins each; offered 2130 and 2230, Mon.-Sat.) for *Turtle Walks* educational program (June-July); this requires communicating efficiently with *Turtle Walk* tour guides and assisting with crowd control of tour guests.
 - Conduct post-hatching excavations for morning *Sunrise Walks* educational programs (offered Thu.-Sat. in August), communicate efficiently with *Sunrise Walk* tour guides, and assist with crowd control of tour guests.
 - Lead nighttime *Ride with Night Patrol* education programs in conjunction with regular night patrols (offered ~3-5 days/week for ~5 hours, June-July).
 - Lead morning *Ride with Dawn Patrol* education programs in conjunction with regular dawn patrols (offered daily for ~2-5 hours, August).
 - Remove and discard marine debris found on patrols and recycle or donate beach plastics.
 - Educate the public incidentally about conservation and wildlife-related Jekyll Island Ordinances to promote good environmental stewardship behavior.
 - Assist with education efforts pertaining to research initiatives in the GSTC Learning Center, at Outreach Events, and as assigned elsewhere.
- **Additional Responsibilities** (March-April)
 - Assist with turtle (terrestrial, freshwater, and/or sea turtle) research on Jekyll Island, including but not limited to field-based telemetry, mark-recapture, and data entry/management.
 - Be on-call to assist with island-wide wildlife response calls as needed (injured/sick/displaced birds, mammals, reptiles, etc.).

- Interface with the GSTC Education Department, GSTC Husbandry Department, Jekyll Island Conservation Department, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and other local collaborators as assigned. Potential but not guaranteed examples include: assistance with off-island sea turtle and marine mammal stranding events and necropsies, participation in community service with local partners, and learning about coastal ecology through participation in educational and team-building field trips.

General Requirements:

- Commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion in all aspects of work.
- Self-motivation and the ability to work both independently and with a team.
- Positive attitude and a desire to learn.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, team ethic, and cooperation for living and working in a group setting.
- Excellent and honest communication with colleagues and supervisors.
- Excellent organization skills.
- The ability to pay close attention to detail.
- A flexible schedule that will include working long shifts (including both night and morning patrols), holidays, evenings, and weekends.
- Tolerance of extreme heat, high humidity, precarious weather and tides, and biting insects.
- Experience working in the field with wildlife.
- Strong public speaking skills for communicating with diverse audiences.
- Proficient computer skills (Excel, Access, Publisher)

AmeriCorps Program Minimum Requirements/Qualifications:

- 18+ yrs of age.
- U.S. Citizen.
- Ability to obtain a U.S. driver's license.
- Consent to a criminal history check and be cleared for service.

Preferred (but not required):

- Bachelor's Degree in Biology, or related degree program.
- Sea turtle nesting or tagging project experience.
- Experience mentoring others (e.g., training interns and volunteers).
- Willingness and ability to provide excellent customer service to accommodate a variety of island and program guests.
- Advanced writing experience, including proper use of grammar and spelling.

Salary and Benefits: Living stipend (\$5,000 for a *minimum* of 900 hours of service, distributed evenly every two weeks over six months), island amenity passes, Jekyll Island parking pass, education award (\$3,097.50), and student loan forbearance.

Housing: Optional and partially-subsidized shared housing on Jekyll Island is available. If this option is selected, \$200 per month rent surcharge (including utilities) will be automatically deducted from payroll, along with a \$100 (\$50 refundable) security deposit. Houses have limited-bandwidth internet and air-conditioning; they are also equipped with basic furniture and kitchen supplies. You must provide your own linens, towels, and food. Not provided but available: telephone and cable.