

Research Specialist, Jekyll Island Authority – Georgia Sea Turtle Center

Department: Georgia Sea Turtle Center

Status: Full-time Employee

Pay: \$13.50 - \$17.25 per hour (DOQ)

Reports to: Research Ecologist

Benefits: Eligible for Full-Time Benefits

Retirement: State Employee Retirement System (GSEPS)

Closing Date: 4:00pm January 20, 2021 **Note: This position is subject to close at any time once a satisfactory applicant pool has been identified. A resume and cover letter must be submitted with application. Applications received without accompanying resume and cover letter will not be considered.*

Apply at: <https://www.jekyllisland.com/jekyll-island-authority/employment/>

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.

Job Summary:

Under close supervision, the Research Specialist is responsible for coordinating field research and education programs. Duties involve collecting scientific observations, curating large datasets, supervising volunteers and AmeriCorps members, managing equipment, and developing science-based communications, including public education materials and peer-

reviewed publications. In addition to being passionate about scientific research, the ideal candidate will be detail oriented, highly organized, and a dynamic communicator able to interface with visiting public, island residents, and local authorities.

Description (priorities will vary but will include some assistance with all of the following):

- Coordinate sea turtle nest monitoring, nighttime tagging, and stranding responses
- Assist with other turtle research projects
- Train and supervise AmeriCorps members, interns, and volunteers.
- Follow high quality data collection and management protocols.
- Maintain research equipment, update supply inventories, and communicate purchasing needs
- Communicate findings through reports, peer-reviewed publications, scientific presentations, newsletters and public events
- Help facilitate GSTC public programs, such as Ride with Night Patrol and Ride with Dawn Patrol
- Assist GSTC Education and Rehabilitation programs as needed
- Assist with inter- and intra-departmental training, scheduling, and supervision
- Assist with grant development, project execution, data management, and reporting
- Interact positively with the public during normal fieldwork activities and scheduled programs
- Help promote activities through press interviews, newsletters, social media, and website development
- Assist in internal and external events
- Perform other duties as assigned

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in related field (e.g., wildlife management, ecology, biology, zoology) required with a minimum of two (2) years related experience, including field experience
- Minimum of one (1) year wildlife research experience
- Ability to conduct high quality research
- Ability to faithfully follow data collection and management protocols with great attention to detail
- Ability to supervise high-quality data collection and management
- Excellent leadership and personnel management skills
- Team player with excellent interpersonal and written communication skills
- Positive demeanor, with demonstrated ability to solve problems in group settings and individually
- Diplomatic and patient communication skills; ability to communicate challenging issues
- Ability to self-manage time to ensure that all primary responsibilities are met
- Ability to work a flexible schedule, including weekends and holidays, and be on-call for emergencies
- Advanced computer skills with Microsoft Office, Excel and Access

- Advanced GPS and ArcGIS skills (or comparable software) required.
- Ability to operate bicycles and all-terrain vehicles, perform basic maintenance
- Some travel required for meetings and conferences
- Valid driver's license required

Preferred Qualifications:

- Master's degree in related field (e.g., environmental science, ecology, biology, zoology) with a minimum of 5 years related experience including field experience.
- Experience coordinating field research, including managing personnel
- First-authored scientific publication
- Knowledge of turtle ecology and scientific literature
- Experience handling turtles

Physical Activities, Requirements, and Working Conditions:

- The work week will generally be 8am – 5pm M-F but will commonly include long hours performed at night and early mornings, including occasional holidays and weekends.
- 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.
- Ability to ride a bicycle and operate an all-terrain vehicle
- More than 50% of the typical workday will be spent sitting, standing, and/or walking.
- Between 25% and 50% of the day will be spent lifting, reaching, standing or sitting.
- Less than 25% of the day will be spent climbing, balancing, stooping, kneeling, crouching, 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.
- Work will be performed both inside and outside. Work maybe subject to extreme cold, extreme heat, rain, high humidity, and extremely high densities of biting insects. Work includes exposure to vibrations, hazards, infectious diseases, and potentially dangerous animals. The field portion of this position requires a level of fitness and mental resiliency for variable distances walking through thickly vegetated woods and on the beach. Tolerance of hot, buggy, rainy, inclement field conditions will be needed. Extreme diligence with checking for ticks.
- 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 that may be assigned from time to time.

This position is subject to close at any time once a satisfactory applicant pool has been identified. Applicants who complete the online application process will receive an email receipt

of submission to the email address provided. If email confirmation is not received, applicant may contact Human Resources at 912-635-4086 for confirmation, however, due to the volume of applicants received, we are unable to provide information on application status after receipt.

All qualified applicants will be considered but may not necessarily receive an interview. Incomplete applications or applications without accompanying documents when required will not be considered. Selected applicants will be contacted for the next steps in the selection process. Relocation expenses are not authorized, applicants should consider this when applying.

Jekyll Island Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Authority supports equal employment opportunities for all persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, veteran status, or any other status protected by law.

Apply at: <https://www.jekyllisland.com/jekyll-island-authority/employment/>