

## Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Facility Intern

### General Description

Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Facility (STRF) interns promote the mission of Gumbo Limbo Nature Center through education, conservation, and rehabilitation. Duties will include assisting STRF staff in the daily operations of the Medical Facility, and learning the skills required to rehabilitate sea turtles. Daily responsibilities will include, but are not limited to, food preparation, tank sanitation, facility upkeep, and visitor interaction. Interns will also learn to assist STRF staff with medical treatments and surgical procedures. All interns are expected to complete an independent project that contributes to the mission of STRF. Regular supervision is exercised over this position by the STRF Marine Turtle Permit Holder.

### Position Duties

Prepare food according to staff instructions;  
Feed turtles using designated techniques and schedules set by staff;  
Maintain and clean food preparation area;  
Clean and sanitize tanks, paying particular attention to quarantine protocols; Wash and fold laundry daily;  
Pick up all trash/debris inside rehab areas; Empty all trash bins and recycle bins regularly;  
Sweep and mop rehab areas as needed; Restock supplies;  
Interact with visitors and fill in as Rehab Educator when necessary.

### Related Tasks

Be prepared to handle any facility emergency that may arise (Fire, Inclement weather, etc.);  
Observing and recording turtle behavior; Assist in developing turtle enrichment;  
Assist staff with daily medical treatments; Sterilize medical equipment after use;  
Assist staff with new patient admittance; Assist staff with post-operative care;  
Assist staff with transporting patients for medical procedures;  
Participate in programs and events;  
Perform other duties as required.

### Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

Communicate effectively with staff, volunteers, and visitors  
Maintain detailed records and an organized work space

### Education, Experience, and Training

Must be at least 18 years old. Must be enrolled in or a recent graduate (<12months) of an accredited college or university with a degree in Biology, Zoology, Environmental Studies, or related field.

### Physical Demands

Must be physically fit; Able to lift, carry, and push objects weighing up to 50 lbs.;  
Must be able to tolerate exposure to extreme temperatures, harsh weather conditions, noise, dust, pollen, animals, and insects; Physical exertion will include repetitive and/or long term standing, walking, stooping, bending, twisting, and lifting.

### Special Requirements

Have obtained and maintained a minimum 3.0 GPA.  
Expected to work a minimum of 20 hours per week. Cannot exceed 40 hours per week. Hours are flexible, but will include weekends and holidays. Total hours worked for internship cannot exceed 1000 hours.

### Time Commitment

Minimum of 1 school semester and maximum of 2 consecutive semesters in either:  
Spring (January-April), Summer (May-August), or Fall (September-December).

## Gumbo Limbo Nature Center Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Facility Internship Program Outline

A sample internship program is outlined below. The actual program sequence may vary for each intern.

### *Week 1*

Introduction to Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, our staff, our mission, and general policies & procedures. Introduction to Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Facility, including safety procedures, expectations, and emergency protocols. Begin educating in rehabilitation facility and shadowing rehabilitation staff. Basic hands on instruction.

### *Weeks 2-3*

Continue educating and shadowing STRF staff. Training in basic sea turtle husbandry procedures. Training in stranding response and documentation. Brainstorm ideas for intern project. Begin observing medical treatments.

### *Weeks 4-5*

Training in advanced sea turtle husbandry procedures. Begin work on intern project. Training in assisting with medical treatments. Develop plan for intern project.

### *Weeks 6-7*

*Mid-point evaluation.* Significant progress made on internship project. Expected to be proficient in basic husbandry. Develop skills in advanced husbandry and assisting with medical treatments. Observe surgical procedure.

### *Weeks 8-9*

Significant progress made on internship project. Expected to be proficient in advanced husbandry and assisting with medical treatments. Possibility to assist in surgical procedures based on progress and availability.

### *Weeks 10-11*

Finalize intern project. Expected to be proficient in all areas of husbandry. Expected to be able to conduct medical treatments.

### *Week 12*

Presentation of intern project. Program wrap up, identify work remaining for future internships, final evaluation.

### *Weeks 13+*

Continue to develop skills acquired during internship. Expand upon intern project or complete additional project(s). Potential to assist with ongoing research, attend workshops, or cross train in other departments based on timing and availability allows.

### Projects

All interns are expected to complete an independent or group project during their session. Following initial brainstorming sessions with the Intern Coordinator, interns will submit a brief written proposal outlining the goals of the project. Progress will be assessed at the mid-point of the internship, and feedback will be provided to guide interns to completion of the project. Additional projects may be permitted if intern expresses interest and time allows. At the completion of the project, the intern will provide a written summary of the project and present the project. Presentations may be given in a variety of settings with approval from STRF staff: "Ecotalk", scientific poster, brown bag lunch, video, exhibit, etc.