



St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

Communications Division

**August 9, 2017
For Immediate Release**

Volunteers Needed for St. Johns County Sea Turtle and Beach Steward Program

St. Johns County, FL – Once sea turtles hatch from their nests, they swim in search of a large mass of seaweed in the ocean. Storms and high tides often push the seaweed back onto the beach creating a wrack line and stranding the turtles. St. Johns County is seeking volunteers to survey the wrack lines to recover stranded washback sea turtles and conduct beach cleanups from August through November.

Volunteers will be scheduled for bi-weekly beach cleanups, and will remain on call to survey the wrack lines when needed. All volunteers assisting the Sea Turtle and Beach Steward Program must complete a County volunteer application, pass a background check, possess a valid Florida driver license, complete the online orientation session, and attend one mandatory survey training that is conducted on the beach. Trainings are scheduled for the following dates and locations:

- August 15 / 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. / Surfside Beachfront Park, 3070 Coastal Highway.
- August 19 / 9 to 10 a.m. / Butler Beachfront Park, 5860 A1A South.
- August 21 / 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. / South Ponte Vedra Recreation Area, 2993 S. Ponte Vedra Blvd.

Children under the age of 18 are welcome to volunteer, but they must be accompanied by an adult or guardian. For more information, please visit the St. Johns County Sea Turtle and Beach Steward Volunteers webpage at www.co.st-johns.fl.us/HCP/Volunteer.aspx, or call 904.209.3740. All trainings are subject to cancellation due to weather events. Please check the webpage for cancellation updates.

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For additional information, please contact:

Michael Ryan, Director of Communications	-	904.209.0549 / 214.493.2983
Sarah Hand, Communications Specialist	-	904.209.0557