

Sea Turtle Patrol Training Program



Are you interested in being a Sea Turtle Patrol volunteer? Beach patrols range from Rollover Pass on the Bolivar Peninsula through Galveston Island to Surfside, TX. Surveys are carried out 6 days a week, from April 1st to July 15th. Surveys are conducted using a fleet of UTV vehicles, as well as volunteers walking the beach. If sea turtle tracks are found on the beach, responders will examine the tracks to determine if a nest was deposited, locate the egg chamber, excavate the eggs and transport them to the NOAA Galveston Sea Turtle Laboratory, where personnel from Padre Island National Seashore retrieve them for transfer to their incubation facility. Scientific data show that excavated nests have a higher hatching rate compared to nests left on the beach.

All Sea Turtle Patrol (STP) participants must attend one of the mandatory training sessions – even if you have previously participated in the STP program. Each participant must submit a registration form with all required information (e.g. you cannot register 2 people on the same form). Email Theresa at turtlepatrol@tirn.net with any questions. PLEASE NOTE AN UPDATE: Due to liability concerns, Texas A&M University will not allow children under 16 on the UTV's. Children under 16 are allowed to participate in the walking routes, however please keep in mind these are from 2-5 miles long.