



# Marine Biology Adventures!

discovery + confidence + conservation + adventure





Join the adventure...





and discover...

marine life like never before



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a lifelong passion and respect for the environment



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# amazing coastal ecosystems and marine habitats



“I had the time of my life. My favorite part was the nest excavation. It was a **dream come true** to see turtle hatchlings. From now on, I promise to **make a stand and make the oceans a safer environment** for all marine life. I want to thank everyone for the most incredible experience of my entire life. I have made **memories that will last a lifetime.**”

- Missy: Gurnee, IL

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creatures great and small



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an experience you will never forget!



“I **enjoyed everything** about camp. I made new friends that had the same interests as me. It **opened my eyes** and showed me that some people are unaware of threatening a species to the brink of extinction. The future holds many things, let sea turtles be in it. “

- Lia: Yardley, PA

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*Dear Future Marine Biologist,*

*When it comes to conservation, we all have to look at the total picture. If we can make people see that if everybody did even one thing to help the planet, to save our home, and as a result save the home for all the other living creatures as well, then it would make a huge impact!*

*Once people are aware, they will realize what a difference they can make. They will discover how good it feels to make a difference and it will only grow from there. It will change the world!*

*Sea Turtle Camp is a marine biology experience that opens the world of conservation to students. Come be a part of something special, make a difference, and experience the unique wonders of sea turtles.*

*I look forward to meeting you this summer!*

*Warmest Regards,*

*Jean Beasley  
Cofounder*





# our founders

Jean Beasley Founder



A chance encounter with a nesting sea turtle prompted Jean Beasley's daughter, Karen, to spearhead a project to protect the sea turtles, their nests, and the emerging hatchlings on Topsail Island. After Karen's untimely passing, Jean took up the reins of her work, and her spirit lives on through the hospital today. Although neither had envisioned a sea turtle hospital, when a seriously injured turtle washed up on Topsail Island, something had to be done! Before they knew it, a small group of volunteers united, and The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center was born. More than 20 fully recovered sea turtles, ranging in size from 4 to 400 pounds, are released back to the ocean each year thanks to the volunteers' efforts.



The center's volunteers have made significant contributions to the field of sea turtle medicine, but perhaps more importantly, they have listened to the message that the sea turtles have brought them. The degradation of their habitat and the reasons behind their illnesses and injuries were hard to ignore. Jean began to speak of conservation and its importance, not only for sea turtles but for the very survival of the planet itself. Jean's efforts at the Sea Turtle Center led her to become nominated and subsequently win Animal Planet's 2007 "Hero of the Year" award. Jean is recognized worldwide for her conservation work, and she continues to challenge all with her message that, "Every person can make a difference, and together we can change the world!"

Jen Civelli Founder



Jen Civelli is a mother of two, an avid lover of sea turtles, a steward for our coastal environment, and served as a local college chemistry instructor for 14 years. Her passion for the ocean started while attending college at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo and continued through her graduate school studies at San Diego State University. During her college years, through the sport of surfing, she began to learn and respect the ocean and all of its inhabitants. Felt very fortunate to have the opportunity to move to Wilmington, North Carolina in 2000 because our coastal area has so much to offer with its white sandy beaches, warm clear water, and abundant marine life. The move to Wilmington also led Jen to discover The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center.



Jen started volunteering at the center in 2001. To her, it felt like the sea turtles had the ability to see into her soul as she cared for them, and gave her the inspiration to fight for both their safety and for the safety of the entire coastal environment. "It was amazing to witness each turtle's own personality and see the look of thanks in their eyes!" Jen and her husband, Rick, also founded WB Surf Camp, which has supported the Sea Turtle Center since its inception in 2001. Because of their dedication to sea turtle conservation and admiration for the mission of The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center, Sea Turtle Camp was born.





## Mission

Sea Turtle Camp was created to immerse teens in the field of marine biology through hands-on, feet-wet, experiential education. Our mission is to inspire and empower youth to become independent, proactive stewards of the environment through exposure to the world of marine biology. Sea turtles are some of the oldest living creatures in the world, and their numbers are being depleted faster than they can reproduce. While we can't solve all the world's problems, we know that one person can make a difference, and a camp full of eager, knowledge-hungry teens can have a significant impact.



One of our goals is to share our passion for life while teaching young adults how to organize themselves into a compassionate, hard working team of individuals that can recognize problems and work towards solving them. Through our grassroots approach, we strive to show our campers a wide variety of possibilities at a time in their lives when they have many potential roads to follow. In so doing, they will learn about the rewards of selfless giving in their community, truly leaving their philanthropic footprint in the sand.





# Sea Turtle Hospital

We strive to raise compassionate awareness for what's being done in and for our life-sustaining oceans. The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center was created to provide injured sea turtles with the love and care necessary to rehabilitate and release them back to the ocean. The center seeks to "provide an experiential learning site for students of biology, wildlife conservation, and/or veterinary medicine from around the world."

As sea turtle numbers keep declining and the obstacles they face continue to grow, the importance of volunteers, such as those at the hospital, becomes even more vital. By aligning with this amazing non-profit organization and igniting the wonder and amazement of the next generation, we hope to not only support the center's efforts physically and financially, but change the world, and change lives, one rehabilitated sea turtle at a time.



After breaking ground in May 2010, the new Sea Turtle Center facility in Surf City, NC opened its doors on November 7th, 2013. After years of working in a crowded, cramped 900 square-foot space, caring for up to 40 turtles, the center moved into its new 13,000+ square-foot building. You will work inside this amazing hospital/education center, complete with husbandry, surgical, and public education rooms.

It takes many people each day to keep the facility running smoothly. It is often difficult and hot work. However, the rewards are priceless and can be found simply by looking into a turtle's eyes just before their release back to the ocean and witnessing their pure excitement as they return home.

Campers will engage in these daily activities alongside and under the supervision of dedicated sea turtle center volunteers and interns. Learn what it takes to care for, rehabilitate, and release one of these magnificent creatures back to the sea. Campers will also get to know the turtles by name, learn how they're named, and begin to recognize the many different personalities exhibited by each turtle.







## Educators



The Sea Turtle Camp team is composed of experienced marine educators and administrative staff who bring with them professional experience, in-depth knowledge, and a broad range of skill sets. Our educators are passionate about marine biology, and the study of coastal ecosystems, and are excited to share this passion with fresh young minds who are motivated and energized to learn and make a positive impact on our planet.

Employment at Sea Turtle Camp is extremely competitive. We examine hundreds of applications before selecting the members of our elite team. All applicants must go through our intense multi-stage interview process and comprehensive background check. We take only the top candidates and are extremely proud to provide one of the greatest employment opportunities available in marine science summer camps.

- American Red Cross certified in CPR, First Aid and Lifeguarding
- Staff degrees specializing in the marine and environmental sciences
- Experience working in a camp environment
- Extensive pre-season training
- Dedicated and diverse staff from a variety of backgrounds
- Thorough background checks are performed on all employees
- All applicants are hired only after extensive, multi-stage interviews







Upon hiring, all instructors attend our mandatory training prior to the start of each season. Required qualifications for our staff include CPR, First Aid, and Lifeguarding. Our founder, Jen Civelli, plays a fundamental role in the hiring and training of each team member.

### **Our mission statement of environmental conservation and philanthropy is deeply shared by our team.**

We are conscious of the fact that without the ocean, there is no life on earth. We have dedicated our lives to educating youth about environmental conservation, living a lifestyle that is harmonious with this purpose, and exploring new ways of sharing our mission.

“My counselors were **great role models and teachers**, and helped me realize what I wanted to do in college and post-college. My instructors **helped me develop my own opinions** about the world and **grow as an individual** into a better human being. They continue to support me in my future endeavors and I appreciate all that they and Sea Turtle Camp have done for me.”

- Allison: Pittsburgh, PA







## Carolina Ocean Odyssey Rising 5th - 8th grade



Carolina Ocean Odyssey is a 6-day, residential summer camp program for rising 5th - 8th graders. This exciting new program is a partnership with our friends at WB Surf Camp! The primary focus of this program is to introduce campers to a variety of ocean activities while sharing our local coastal environment. Our goal is for campers to gain independence and an appreciation for protecting and enjoying our earth's oceans.

Campers receive expert instruction and care from our highly trained team. Before camp, our staff participates in a week of training, which includes lifeguarding, marine science, surf coaching, ocean ecology, childhood development, and behavior management. We are dedicated to being partners in parenting with all of our families.

**Coastal North Carolina offers a unique setting for a hands-on, aquatic adventure program.**

Summer water temps average in the low 80s, so you'll be ready to jump right into adventure! From the sandy shores of Topsail Island, build your confidence in the water as you spend each day participating in a different aquatic activity.

From the clear warm waters and sandy shores of Topsail Island, campers will build confidence as they experience a different aquatic activity each day. Our marine educators lead the exploration of local habitats including salt marshes, coastal estuaries, sand dunes, and turtle-nesting beaches. You'll also enjoy a kayak eco-tour, living shoreline restoration, two days of surfing lessons, boogie boarding, and more!







# Marine Biology Adventure Rising 9th - recent grads



Sea Turtle Camp is located in the coastal town of Topsail Beach, North Carolina. During this unique program, you will work with live sea turtles while building your knowledge of marine biology fundamentals and ocean conservation.

**We have five species of sea turtles that migrate in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of North Carolina— loggerhead, green, Kemp’s ridley, leatherback, and occasionally the hawksbill.**

Spend two hours working with the interns at The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center, caring for the turtles. From preparing food to cleaning tanks, you will understand the enormous amount of time, effort, and love poured into every turtle.

The goal is to one day return them to the sea after being nurtured back to health. While walking the beaches looking for nesting mothers, you’ll learn about nocturnal adaptations. You’ll also patrol the beach in the mornings looking for fresh tracks.

You will earn 15 community service hours through your work at The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center, public outreach, and beach sweeps. Help make a difference by removing trash from our beaches. This trash, especially plastic, kills thousands of marine animals each year, forcing many of them toward extinction. Sea turtles are no exception and ingest or get caught in everything from fishing lines to balloons. Sea turtles easily mistake plastic bags for sea jellies, their favorite food, which leads to malnutrition and potentially death.





“I’ll never experience anything more interesting, fun, and intriguing. To see and care for **such amazing animals** is something that is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and it **brings me great joy** to know that I was able to take part in such an **amazing movement.**”

- Annabelle: Dallas, MN



When you’re not at the center you will be exploring the local beaches and salt marshes by foot, stand-up paddleboard, or kayak! You will learn about the interconnectedness of the ocean, our coastal barrier islands, the sounds and salt marshes, and the rivers and watersheds. As you learn about the field of marine biology, you will sample the diversity of organisms found in southeastern North Carolina, from the turbulent life in the coquina outcrop to the serene sound side communities. You’ll also see the effort that goes into replicating these habitats with a naturalist-guided tour of the North Carolina Aquarium.

Camp tuition includes lodging on Topsail Island, all meals from dinner on the first day to breakfast on the last day, 24-hour access to camp staff, admission to all activities, all equipment, and transportation including pick up and drop off from the Wilmington International Airport (ILM), Sea Turtle Hospital donation, community service certificate, Sea Turtle Camp t-shirt, and memorable group photo. Campers are responsible for round-trip airfare to ILM or transportation to Topsail Island and additional money for souvenirs.

- Lodging on historic Topsail Island
- Two half-days of volunteer work at The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center
- Evening sea turtle nest walk
- Salt marsh exploration and study
- Tidepool at North Carolina’s only natural rocky outcrop
- Behind the Scenes tour of the NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher
- Kayak eco-tour through Barrier Island sounds
- 15 hours of community service
- Enrollment is limited to 24 students







# Marine Biology Immersion

## Rising 9th - recent grads



This amazing and intensive 11-day program dives deeper into the world of marine biology. Four half-days will be spent working at the Sea Turtle Center. By feeding the turtles, administering medicine, and cleaning their tanks, you will broaden your knowledge of sea turtle rehabilitation.

**Through hands-on, feet-wet activities you will gain an appreciation and respect for our oceans and marine biology that will remain with you for the rest of your life.**

In addition to the activities described in the Adventure, you will also climb aboard a research vessel and participate in a sample trawl with Cape Fear Community College where we'll collect and classify a wide variety of marine life, explore the underwater world with a 2-hour Discover SCUBA course, and visit the New Hanover County Landfill and WASTEC to fully grasp the waste of consumer-driven cultures

You will earn 25 community service hours through your work at The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center, beach sweeps, and public outreach. We will research, prepare, and present a lesson to the public describing the challenges facing all sea turtles. While walking the beaches looking for nesting mothers, we'll learn about nocturnal adaptations. We'll also patrol in the mornings looking for fresh tracks.

By taking up residence on Topsail Island, we will be in close contact with the Topsail Island Beach Patrol, who make daily rounds looking for nesting females and fresh crawls. With first-hand knowledge of the threats facing adult sea turtles and their hatchlings, you will learn one of the most important parts of research – communication. Your group will develop an afternoon marine science presentation and use it to educate and motivate the public at the Sea Turtle Center.





“I absolutely loved this camp! Every day had **something new** in store for us. My favorite part had to be when we got to **see the hatchlings go out into the ocean** on the last night! When we did the outreach project at the Sea Turtle Hospital, I was **amazed at how much information I learned** in such a short amount of time.”

- Emily: Harvest, AL



During our final days of camp, you'll experience panoramic views of the beautiful salt marsh. Explore Fort Fisher, learn about sandstone ecology, and enjoy the beach at the southern tip of the Cape Fear. On our trip to the North Carolina Aquarium, you will take a full tour and then go behind the scenes. Here, you'll learn about animal husbandry and how care is provided for the different aquatic and marine species in residence.

Camp tuition includes lodging on Topsail Island, all meals from dinner on the first day to breakfast on the last day, 24-hour access to camp staff, admission to all activities, all equipment, and transportation including pick up and drop off from the Wilmington International Airport (ILM), Sea Turtle Hospital donation, community service certificate, Sea Turtle Camp t-shirt, and memorable group photo. Campers are responsible for round-trip airfare to ILM or transportation to Topsail Island and additional money for souvenirs.

- Lodging on historic Topsail Island
- Four half-days of volunteer work at The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center
- Evening sea turtle nest walk
- Research vessel trawl and classification on the Cape Fear River
- Salt marsh exploration and study
- Tidepool at North Carolina's only natural rocky outcrop
- Eutrophication lesson at Greenfield Lake
- Behind the Scenes tour of the NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher
- Kayak eco-tour through Barrier Island sounds
- Tour of the New Hanover County Landfill and WASTEC plant
- 25 hours of community service
- Enrollment is limited to 24 students







## Open Water SCUBA Rising 9th - recent grads



Our Sea Turtle and Open Water SCUBA Camp allows you to be immersed in the undersea world of marine biology. During this program, you will develop your knowledge of marine biology fundamentals and be part of ocean conservation, while becoming a certified Open Water SCUBA diver.

**The waters off North Carolina provide an experience like no other with what is arguably the country's finest collection of wreck diving.**  
- SCUBA Diving Magazine

SCUBA diving is not only a lifelong passion for many people, but it also opens the doors to the world of marine science careers. It is a skill that you can take with you anywhere in the world, as you explore underwater ecosystems. This is a must for any teen interested in pursuing a career in marine biology.

SCUBA diving is an extremely safe sport, but one that must be taken seriously. Students begin with classroom courses led by professional scuba instructors to prepare them. The classroom lessons will cover all the skills and safety considerations, from buoyancy and breathing underwater to decompression and emergency procedures. You'll practice these crucial skills as we transition to the pool for a series of confined dives allowing you to become comfortable with your equipment and partner.

The next step is a series of open-water dives, performed in a controlled lake environment. The program will be capped off with dives at local shipwrecks, where you'll get a close-up look at tropical fish, small sharks, coral, algae, and maybe even a sea turtle. With 50 feet of visibility, you will see and experience amazing underwater habitats, from the smallest marine creatures to some of the largest.







SCUBA diving will give you a fish-eye view of the marine world. When not developing your skills beneath the waves, you will discover other unlikely coastal habitats of important marine life. Topsail Island exhibits vast salt marshes, towering dunes, and networks of maritime forests just waiting to be explored.

We offer 6- and 11-day SCUBA programs, both including self-guided e-learning prior to the program's start.

Camp tuition includes lodging on Topsail Island, all meals from dinner on the first day to breakfast on the last day, 24-hour access to camp staff, admission to all activities, all equipment, and transportation including pick up and drop off from the Wilmington International Airport (ILM), Sea Turtle Hospital donation, community service certificate, Sea Turtle Camp t-shirt, and memorable group photo. Campers are responsible for round-trip airfare to ILM or transportation to Topsail Island and additional money for souvenirs. A mask, fins, and a snorkel are required for this program.

- Lodging on historic Topsail Island
- Open Water SCUBA certification
- Open water dives at local shipwrecks
- Visit to The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center
- Evening sea turtle nest walks
- Salt marsh exploration and study
- Guided tour of the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher (11-day)
- Kayak tour through the salt march (11-day)
- 10 or 15 hours of community service
- Enrollment is limited to 15 students







## Advanced Open Water SCUBA Rising 9th - recent grads



Take a deeper dive into the world of marine biology in our Sea Turtle and Advanced Open Water SCUBA Camp. This program is designed for students who already have their Open Water certification and are looking for new, challenging opportunities. There are very few classroom lectures, as most of our time is spent practicing skills in the water during numerous open water dives, allowing you to gain even more confidence in your abilities.

Our coast was rated one of the top diving destinations in North America. During this program, you will discover the world of sea turtles! Expand your knowledge of marine biology fundamentals and ocean conservation, while further developing your SCUBA skills. The Advanced Diver course is the perfect way to spend part of your summer!

**The waters off North Carolina provide the perfect opportunity to further develop your skills.**

After a quick refresher session, you'll head straight to the water to develop new skills. You'll start with a trip to master underwater navigation using both natural navigation and compass navigation. These skills will help you locate submerged objects, follow courses, estimate distance underwater, and plan efficient dive routes to maximize your dive experience.

Next, you'll transition to the ocean for a series of dives over the course of two charter trips. Previously, you were limited to dives of 60 feet or less. As part of the Deeper Diver course, travel below this range to explore more of the marine environment.







“Most **amazing thing** I have ever done! I **learned a ton** and had a blast while doing it. I **cannot wait to go SCUBA diving** again. I will use all that I have learned for the rest of my life. **I would do it again in a heartbeat.**”

- Craig: Alplaus, NY

When you're not logging dives, you'll explore the Cape Fear region. Follow the river from its confluence in downtown Wilmington, through the rich salt marshes and estuaries, to the beach and oceanfront communities. Each dynamic habitat hosts a variety of invertebrates and vertebrate life.

Camp tuition includes lodging on Topsail Island, all meals from dinner on the first day to breakfast on the last day, 24-hour access to camp staff, admission to all activities, all equipment, and transportation including pick up and drop off from the Wilmington International Airport (ILM), Sea Turtle Hospital donation, community service certificate, Sea Turtle Camp t-shirt, and memorable group photo. Campers are responsible for round-trip airfare to ILM or transportation to Topsail Island and additional money for souvenirs. A mask, fins, and a snorkel are required for this program.

- Lodging on historic Topsail Island
- Advanced Open Water SCUBA certification
- Nitrox certification
- Deep water dives at local shipwrecks
- Underwater navigation course
- Visit to The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center
- Evening sea turtle nest walks
- Salt marsh exploration and study
- 10 hours of community service
- Enrollment is limited to 15 students







## Rescue Diver SCUBA Rising 9th - recent grads



Take an even deeper dive into the world of marine biology in our Rescue Diver SCUBA certification camp. This program is designed for divers who have already completed their Advanced Open Water SCUBA certification and are looking for the next exciting step in their SCUBA career!

The waters off the North Carolina coast provide the perfect opportunity to further develop your skills, as our coast was rated one of the top diving destinations in North America. During this program, you will develop your knowledge of marine biology fundamentals and ocean conservation further while developing your SCUBA skills.

After a quick refresher session, you'll head straight to the water to develop new skills. This camp includes a professional First Aid and CPR certification, needed to get the Rescue Diver Certification. In addition, participants will also get their Emergency Oxygen Provider Certification!

**“Challenging” and “rewarding” best describe the PADI Rescue Diver course. Building upon what you’ve already learned, this course expands on what you already know about how to prevent problems, and how to manage them if they occur.**

During this program, campers will learn how to self-rescue, recognize and manage stress in other divers, use emergency equipment, rescue panicked or unresponsive divers.







Coastal North Carolina is surrounded by rich marine ecosystems that countless aquatic species call home. From the expansive Atlantic Ocean, with its miles of white sand beaches on barrier islands to the fluctuating and dynamic salt marsh habitats, Sea Turtle Camp gives you the opportunity to explore and study these amazing ecosystems in depth.

Camp tuition includes lodging on Topsail Island, all meals from dinner on the first day to breakfast on the last day, 24-hour access to camp staff, admission to all activities, all equipment, and transportation including pick up and drop off from the Wilmington International Airport (ILM), Sea Turtle Hospital donation, community service certificate, Sea Turtle Camp t-shirt, and memorable group photo. Campers are responsible for round-trip airfare to ILM or transportation to Topsail Island and additional money for souvenirs. A mask, fins, and a snorkel are required for this program.

- Lodging on historic Topsail Island
- Rescue Diver SCUBA certification
- Earn CPR/First Aid & Emergency Oxygen Provider certifications
- Deep water dives at local shipwrecks
- Visit to The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center
- Evening sea turtle nest walks
- Salt marsh exploration and study
- 10 hours of community service
- Enrollment is limited to 10 students







## Costa Rica Adventure Rising 10th - recent grads



Costa Rica is an eco-tourism treasure with over 27% of its land protected. Costa Rica is one of the safest and easiest international travel destinations in the world. It is a sustainable country, with no standing military, that focuses on creating greater equality of wealth among citizens and protecting their natural resources.

Over a quarter of the country is set aside for conservation! With a modern international airport in San Jose and well-maintained highways, Costa Rica is very welcoming to tourists. Due to its friendly culture and “rich coastal” natural resources, Costa Rica is rated one of the hottest eco-travel destinations in the world!

Few countries are more suitable to study sea turtles than Costa Rica. With nesting beaches on both coasts, this country is visited by 6 of the 7 species: loggerheads, greens, Kemp’s ridleys, olive ridleys, hawksbills, and leatherbacks.

During the summer months, the Caribbean side plays host to one of the most important green sea turtle nesting events in the Western Hemisphere.

As a small, intimate-sized group, we travel to the Caribbean Coast during one of the most active green sea turtle nesting aggregations in the world, you will assist a long-term research project with nightly beach patrols. Leatherbacks frequently ply these waters, and their nests will be hatching out around this time as well. This exclusive adventure will immerse like-minded teens in the local language, culture, and ecology with our team of trained professionals.

**This program is for the adventurous teen who is not afraid to get down and dirty!**







“I stepped off the plane in a new country and a **new perspective on conservation and life began**. The people I met shared my passion for saving those ancient animals and honestly cared about what happened to them. I most enjoyed seeing **baby sea turtles scuttle down to the ocean** to start their long journey in the Atlantic and the **nesting leatherback**. Everyone got **really inspired**.”

- Kate: Harvard, MA

We will start the trip off with a visit to La Calandria where we will learn about Costa Rica's rich culture and natural environment through activities such as hiking the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, learning about the history, tradition, and present-day production of Costa Rican coffee and chocolate, touring the countryside on horseback, and visiting a bat jungle! While here we will also participate in a zip-line tour through the cloud canopy of Monteverde.

After departing Monteverde, you will be ferried to the small island community at the wildlife refuge, Laguna Urpiano, where you will be living the simple life and staying “off-the-grid” in this solar-powered community! It is here campers will receive turtle patrol training and then will spend the next week looking for tracks, nests, laying mothers, and hatchlings.

You will work alongside other volunteers to patrol the beach for sea turtle nests, man a sea turtle hatchery, and participate in the care and study of recuperating adult turtles in the turtle rescue and rehabilitation program. Here, everything is done in shift work and we will be assigned shifts times each day. Shifts run 24 hours a day and campers can be assigned shifts anytime.

After departing Laguna Urpiano, you will go rafting along the Pacuare River. Along the way, you will explore a rainforest ecosystem up close with naturalist-led hikes through the rainforest to visit some beautiful waterfalls.







Costa Rica supports both rich marine ecosystems and diverse rainforest habitats, and you will have the opportunity to explore each environment while gaining a better understanding of its inhabitants. We provide teenagers with the opportunity to learn more about marine biology through hands-on, feet-wet experiential education. Campers get the extraordinary opportunity to work with live sea turtles as well as participate in some amazing daily activities designed to teach them through experience instead of out of a textbook.

Camp tuition includes all lodging, all meals from dinner on the first day to breakfast on the last day, 24-hour access to camp staff, admission to all activities, all equipment, and transportation including pick up and drop off from the San Jose's Juan Santamaria International Airport (SJO), t-shirt, rashguard, Sea Turtle Hospital donation, community service certificate and your team photo. Campers are responsible for round-trip airfare to SJO.

- Sea turtle patrol training
- Sunrise and nocturnal turtle nest walks
- Data collection of nesting females
- Nest protection, excavation, and hatchling release
- Work in shifts at a hatchery and turtle rehabilitation center
- Participate in a whitewater rafting tour along the Pacuare River
- Canopy zip lining through the cloud canopy rainforest
- Take guided nature hikes through the rainforest
- 30 hours of community service
- Enrollment is limited to 12 students







## Hawaii Adventure Rising 10th - recent grads



Come join in the aloha spirit while learning about Hawaiian sea turtles and other marine life in a tropical paradise. With both state and federal protection, the population of green sea turtles (known locally as honu) appears to be on the rebound, giving you numerous opportunities to learn about them and their habits on land and in the water. Join other teens on a journey through the incredible island of Oahu for an adventure you will never forget.

Oahu is home to some of the most diverse marine ecosystems and tropical rainforest habitats, and you will have the opportunity to explore it all from the waves of the North Shore to the reefs along the southern side of the island. This adventure provides teenagers with the opportunity to learn more about marine biology through hands-on, feet-wet experiential education.

**You'll get the extraordinary opportunity to work hands-on with sea turtles and other marine life, as well as participate in some amazing daily activities designed to teach you through experience instead of out of a textbook.**

Sea Turtle Campers shadow marine biologists behind the scenes and participate in research and educational projects at Sea Life Park. Sea Life Park is dedicated to marine conservation, preservation, and education about beautiful fish, seabirds, mammals, invertebrates, reptiles, and all other animals that make their home in our marine environment. Students will then get to learn about invasive species and about the current research being conducted in Kane'ohu Bay.







When not working with sea life, you'll be immersed in some of the most beautiful, famous, and treasured landmarks the island has to offer. You'll surf the breaks of the North Shore, paddle the waters of Waikiki, snorkel over beautiful coral reefs, and even dine at an authentic Hawaiian luau. While on the island you'll also soak up the history and culture by hiking Diamond Head Crater, learning about Native Hawaiians at the Polynesian Cultural Center, and going on a guided tour of the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor.

Camp tuition includes all lodging, all meals from dinner on the first day to breakfast on the last day, 24-hour access to camp staff, admission to all activities, all equipment, and transportation including pick up and drop off from the Honolulu International Airport (HNL), t-shirt, rashguard, Sea Turtle Hospital donation, community service certificate, and a group photo. Campers are responsible for round-trip airfare to Honolulu and additional money for souvenirs.

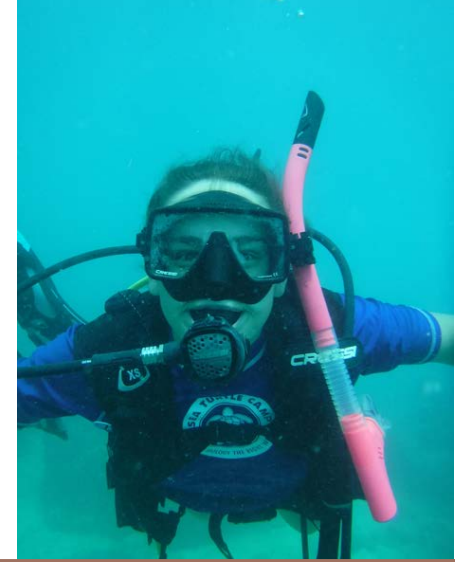
- Shadow marine biologists behind the scenes at Sea Life Park
- Learn about real scientific research from marine biologists
- Collect data as part of scientific research
- Volunteer with local sea turtle non-profits
- Hike Diamond Head Center
- Dine at an authentic Hawaiian luau
- Surf the waves at the North Shore
- Snorkel the coral reefs that fringe the island
- 30 hours of community service
- Enrollment is limited to 16 students







## Florida Keys Open Water SCUBA Rising 10th - recent grads



Discover an exciting new world below the ocean's surface along the beautiful islands of the Florida Keys! The crystal clear water of the Keys allows students to get a close-up look at the abundant marine life that these tropical waters have to offer. If you're ready to dive deep beneath the ocean's surface to check out the world's 3rd largest barrier island reef system, then our Florida Keys Open Water SCUBA Camp is where you want to be!

After flying into Key West, students will begin their trip above water in the classroom and then will take to the pool for some hands-on, feet-wet practice with master divers. After you get a little experience and are comfortable with their new gear, they will jump right in and get a close-up look at all the marine life within the waters of the Keys. After completing their skills tests, students will receive their Open Water SCUBA certification.

You will then use their new certification to do real coral reef health surveys with the Mote Marine Laboratory's Elizabeth Moore International Center for Coral Reef Research & Restoration. The laboratory is a fully equipped marine science facility dedicated to research and education in the Florida Keys. You will receive a tour of the research facility, information on the current coral reef research taking place, a lesson on coral reefs, earn 10 hours of community service credit, and will then put your NAUI certification to use!







Located in the heart of the Lower Keys, the Mote Marine Laboratory's Elizabeth Moore International Center for Coral Reef Research & Restoration (IC2R3) is a fully equipped marine science facility dedicated to marine research and education in the Florida Keys. The facility also offers dorm-style accommodations to house us

Camp tuition includes all lodging, all meals from dinner on the first day to breakfast on the last day, 24-hour access to camp staff, admission to all activities, all equipment, and transportation including pick up and drop off from the Key West Airport (EYW), t-shirt, rashguard, Sea Turtle Hospital donation, community service certificate, and a group photo. Campers are responsible for round-trip airfare to Key West and additional money for souvenirs.

- Lodging at a fully equipped marine science laboratory
- Open Water SCUBA certification
- Open water dives at the 3rd largest barrier island reef system
- Coral reef health surveys
- Tour a state-of-the-art research facility
- Tour the Sea Turtle Hospital
- 10 hours of community service
- Enrollment is limited to 15 students







## Florida Keys Spring Break Rising 10th - recent grads



The Florida Keys are a string of beautiful tropical islands stretching about 120 miles off the southern tip of the U.S. state of Florida, between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. They're known as a destination for fishing, boating, snorkeling, and scuba diving. The crystal clear waters and abundance of marine life made this destination at the top of Sea Turtle Camp's travel list!

**The Florida Keys supports rich marine ecosystems ranging from the Everglades, barrier reefs, the Gulf Stream, and the Atlantic Ocean.**

You will get a chance to experience and explore the upper and middle Keys on this tropical adventure. Campers get the extraordinary opportunity to work with live native animals as well as participate in some amazing daily activities designed to teach them through experience instead of out of a textbook.

This exclusive adventure will immerse high school students in the biodiverse tropical paradise for 6 days and 5 nights. After flying into MIA, you will travel down to Key Largo to spend the week at the beautiful Marine Lab education center. Here you will get tons of hands-on experience in the marine science field and even be a part of citizen science efforts to collect data for scientific research. Students will explore the many habitats of the Florida Keys by boat and learn from marine science instructors about real scientific techniques used to discover the marine world. Marine Lab provides unmatched marine science programs in the Florida Keys. You will get a behind-the-scenes tour of the Sea Turtle Hospital in Marathon. You will then spend time at the Reef Environmental Education Foundation in Key Largo, learning about invasive lionfish and even participating in a lionfish dissection.







This spring break adventure offers something new to Sea Turtle Camp – Citizen Science! Citizen science, also known as community science, or volunteer monitoring is scientific research conducted and submitted by the public. Citizen science is sometimes described as public participation in scientific research and participatory monitoring, whose outcomes are often advancements in scientific research.

Camp tuition includes all lodging, all meals from dinner on the first day to breakfast on the last day, 24-hour access to camp staff, admission to all activities, all equipment, and transportation including pick up and drop off from the Miami International Airport (MIA), t-shirt, rashguard, Sea Turtle Hospital donation, community service certificate, and a group photo. Campers are responsible for round-trip airfare to Miami and additional money for souvenirs.

- Lodging at a waterfront STEM education facility
- Collect and identify diverse invertebrates of the Keys
- Learn how to identify and report bleached corals
- Snorkel in seagrass and mangrove ecosystems
- Conduct a marine debris sweep and determine amounts in local waterways
- Learn about invasive species and participate in a lionfish dissection
- See live sea turtles and learn about local conservation efforts – and feed a sea turtle!
- 10 hours of community service through citizen science
- Enrollment is limited to 12 students







## Giving Back



Sea Turtle Camp is independent and privately owned, so we're funded solely by our own success. The better we perform, the more we can fulfill our mission of educating the next generation about coastal conservation and continue our support of The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center. No matter what kind of difference we want to make as a company – if our camps are not both educational and exciting, then we are not living up to our fullest potential.

Ultimately, our goal is to raise compassionate awareness and increase support for what's being done in and for our life-sustaining oceans. The sea turtle center is a place where volunteers share their love and give their time to care for one aspect of our oceans that many people take for granted. Each person that works there does so on a purely voluntary basis and every dollar donated goes directly towards caring for the sea turtles.

To aid in the ongoing efforts to protect and rehabilitate sick and injured sea turtles, a percentage of each camper's tuition is donated directly to The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center, in an amount that totals over \$200,000 to date. By aligning with this amazing non-profit organization and igniting the wonder and amazement of the next generation, we hope to not only support the efforts of the sea turtle center physically and financially but also change the world, one rehabilitated sea turtle at a time.

**Each year we perform over 2000 hours of community service.**

We feel blessed for the work we are able to do and giving back is a critical part of our mission. When you come to Sea Turtle Camp, you support the efforts of making the world a better place.





# FAQS

## Do I get to see live sea turtles?

YES!!! In our NC programs, we work very closely with The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center which has an average occupancy of 20 sea turtles with varying degrees of injury or illness. Some are even permanent residents due to the severity of their injuries. If you participate in Sea Turtle Camp, you may see turtles in the wild during nest walks or on open water dives, during SCUBA camp.

With our travel programs, we will also be working closely with real sea turtles. Costa Rica participants spend time patrolling the beach for sea turtle nests, manning a sea turtle hatchery, and collecting nesting data. Hawaii program participants assist vets and aquarists who work with sea turtles and other marine animals. Florida Keys programs will visit the local sea turtle hospital and get to feed a turtle. It is also possible that we will see them when diving or snorkeling.

## What kind of community service will I be doing?

Community service is one of the most rewarding aspects of this camp. All of our programs include service learning, such as daily beach cleanups to keep our sands sparkling because we see firsthand the damage that human trash causes to turtles.

## Is there an application process for Sea Turtle Camp?

Yes. Upon applying for the session of your choice, you will be sent an e-mail containing information on how to complete your application, including the submission of two academic references. (References not required for Carolina Ocean Odyssey)

## Do you offer scholarships and financial aid?

Partial scholarships may be available to a limited number of candidates. The application can be found on our website. The deadline to apply is February 1.

## Does my child need to know how to swim to be able to attend this program?

Yes. Due to the nature of this program, all campers must be able to swim and have a basic level of comfort in the water.

## Should I bring a friend?

More than 90% of our participants come by themselves. Participants quickly form long-lasting friendships during their stay and return home with many new friends.

## I am a finicky eater. Can you cater to special diets?

We can accommodate many varieties of food preferences. If you require a special diet, we are happy to work with you to ensure your dietary needs are met. However, as Costa Rica is a field-based, international travel program, we will be unable to cater to severe food allergies.

## What do I need to bring?

A complete packing list will be included with your camp forms, once you've completed the enrollment process.

## What airport is best to fly into for your program, and do you provide a shuttle service?

For our [North Carolina](#) programs, the best airport into fly to is the Wilmington International Airport (ILM). Our instructors meet all participants at baggage claim.

[Costa Rica](#) participants are required to fly into the San Jose Juan Santamaria International Airport (SJO). Our instructors meet all participants once they have cleared customs unless you opt to meet in the U.S. and have one of our instructors accompany you to Costa Rica.

[Hawaii](#) participants are required to fly into the Honolulu International Airport (HNL). Our instructors will meet you at baggage claim.

[Florida Keys SCUBA](#) participants are required to arrive at the Key West International Airport (EYW). Our instructors will meet you at baggage claim.

[Florida Keys Spring Break](#) participants are required to arrive at the Miami International Airport (MIA). Our instructors will meet you at baggage claim.

## Do I need a passport for the travel programs?

Costa Rica participants are required to have a valid passport from the government of their country of residence in order to board a plane and enter the country. North Carolina, Florida, and Hawaii require passports for international participants.



## Where do we stay during camp?

All programs stay in gender-specific rooms and each camper will have their own bed. Staff members are housed on-site and are available 24 hours a day.

North Carolina: Campers will be housed in a fully furnished retreat center with an ocean view and beach access just a few feet away! This is an ideal location, as we will only be steps from our outdoor classroom.

Costa Rica: Throughout our Costa Rica camp we stay at a variety of eco-lodges that devote themselves to conservation and preserving the natural area surrounding them. During the sea turtle patrol portion of the trip, we stay on an isolated beach that operates using solar power and has very simple living, restrooms, and shower facilities.

Hawaii: Students will be housed in suites at the University of Hawaii Manoa. This beautiful campus is a mile from Waikiki and many of our field sites.

Florida SCUBA: Located in the heart of the Lower Keys, the Mote Marine Laboratory's Elizabeth Moore International Center for Coral Reef Research & Restoration (IC2R3) is a fully equipped marine science facility dedicated to marine research and education in the Florida Keys.

Florida Keys Spring Break: We stay at MarineLab Key Largo for the entirety of our adventure. MarineLab is a wonderful non-profit environmental education center.

## What are the ages of your overnight campers? Am I too young/ old to attend one of your programs?

Our programs are grade-specific. Due to the dynamic nature of our curriculum, we group similar ages together. Roommates are grouped together by gender and age in order to enhance the overall level of comfort. A staff member will be housed in each bunk room for supervision.

Carolina Ocean Odyssey: Rising 5th- 8th grade

NC Residential Programs: Rising 9th - recent graduates

Travel Programs: Rising 10th - recent graduates

## What kind of supervision do you provide?

All of our instructors live on-site and are available 24 hours a day for campers. All campers and staff must follow our camp guidelines, which are reviewed during orientation on the first day.

## Can I call home during camp?

We have all campers check in with their parents upon arrival, but we have limited parental contact for the duration of the camp. Sea Turtle Camp is a growing experience, and we find that young people do best and gain confidence through independence. Campers are NOT allowed to carry cell phones at any time during camp. Any cell phones brought to camp will be collected upon arrival and returned upon departure. Parents will be updated through emails and the many pictures we'll be posting on Facebook throughout the trip! We will provide an after-hours number to reach the office in the event of an emergency.

## Is my camper allowed to bring electronic devices?

At Sea Turtle Camp, we promote immersive, hands-on learning experiences that are free from electronic distractions. While campers are allowed to bring cell phones and electronic devices for their arrival and departure days, once they have checked in with their parents/guardians and settled into camp, all electronic devices must be surrendered to our camp staff. These devices will be securely stored throughout the duration of the trip. It's important to note that if any electronic device is discovered in a camper's possession after the initial handover, it will be confiscated, and appropriate measures will be taken. However, we do permit campers to bring MP3 players and e-books. Please be aware that any device capable of connecting to Wi-Fi is not allowed.

## Do you have insurance?

We carry a comprehensive insurance package, including general liability.

## What is your cancellation policy?

Sea Turtle Camp is an extremely high quality, tight margined program with limited space. Therefore, once your student has been accepted into the program, exceptions to this policy cannot be made for any reason, including weather or personal emergencies. We strongly recommend families purchase trip insurance to protect their investment. Additional information for trip insurance coverage and providers can be found [here](#). Please review the terms of our cancellation policy. In order to enroll in Carolina Ocean Odyssey, you must agree to these terms. Our full cancellation policy can be found [here](#).

## Do you have references available?

We would be happy to offer you the opportunity to speak with past participants in order to give you a personal reflection on a previous camper's experience. Please contact our office for a list of references.

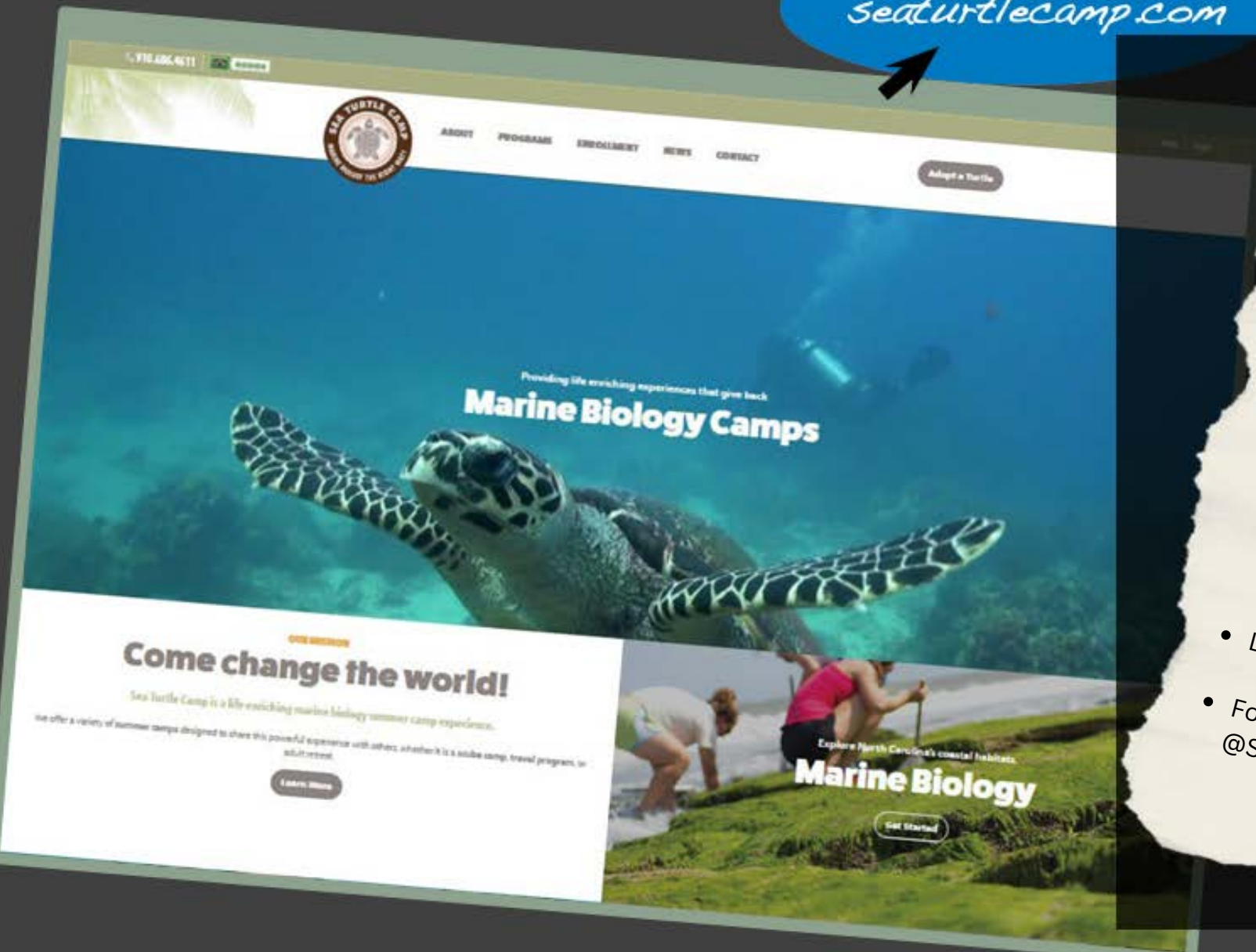


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7213 Ogden Business Lane  
Suite 214  
Wilmington, NC 28411  
910.686.4611  
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