



## The Leatherback Trust

Hello and thank you for your interest,

Each year, The Leatherback Trust selects a team of highly motivated, early-career biologists to conduct our research at the Goldring-Gund Marine Biology Station in Playa Grande, Guanacaste, Costa Rica. Field biologists work under our Project Coordinator and with our Volunteer Coordinator to collect the crucial data in our long-term sea turtle monitoring program at Las Baulas National Marine Park by conducting nightly and morning patrols in search of nesting turtles. You will patrol the beach and when you encounter a turtle, you will tag and measure the females, relocate nests that are below the high-tide line or at risk of inundation to a safe place on the beach or in a hatchery. Additionally, you will monitor the nest as it incubates, taking temperatures every other day, excavating them after they hatch, take morphometric data on hatchlings, and interact with volunteers. On our beach we have nesting green sea turtles, olive ridley sea turtles, and leatherback sea turtles (but these are critically endangered and only very few are left).

Our project relies on citizen scientist volunteers, our collaboration with EarthWatch has predated our status as an organization and is core to our mission and philosophy. It is crucial that you are passionate not just about sea turtles but also about working with these volunteers and sharing your passion for sea turtles with them. In addition, we have other volunteer groups and school groups that come to our project and deserve the same time and respect. Therefore, during your stay at the Goldring-Gund Marine Biology Station, you will assist in leading volunteer activities, educating school groups, and conducting community outreach activities. Finally, there may be graduate research activities going on during your stay. If this occurs during your stay, you will have the opportunity to assist with other ongoing scientific research projects.

**Conditions:** Applicants must be in good physical shape and comfortable with working long hours at night. Night patrols last 6 hours, over which time field biologists walk distances between 10km and 20km in soft sand. Applicants must also be comfortable working in tropical conditions, with extreme heat, humidity and mosquitoes.

**Duration:** The position is from the middle of October through March and priority is given to applicants who can stay for the entire project duration. During this time you will be expected to work 6 days out of every 7, and each month we try to give you 4 consecutive days off from the project (although this can depend on volunteer availability).

**Benefits:** Although the position is unpaid, The Leatherback Trust covers airfare and transportation costs to and from the project site and provides food and dorm-style accommodation (bunk beds) at the Goldring-Gund Marine Biology Station for the duration of the position.



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## Qualifications:

- At least 21 years of age
- Bachelor's degree in biology (or equivalent) or related field
- Conversationally fluent in English is required and Spanish is desired
- Able to work under demanding conditions—rain, humidity, heat, erratic sleeping schedule, walking on uneven and sometimes deep sand in the dark carrying a backpack—as part of a team, living in close proximity with their teammates. This requires good interpersonal skills and cooperation
- An active driver's license is encouraged, but not required. We do not require every member of the team to drive. If you are one of the drivers on our team, we require at least a year of experience driving a manual transmission vehicle.
- Fully vaccinated against the SARS-COV-2 virus at least three weeks before the start of the project
- Have personal health insurance that covers them throughout the duration of their stay in Costa Rica. EarthWatch Institute covers biologists during each EarthWatch volunteer trip, but between trips, team members are responsible for their own medical care.

Application Details: We solicit applications starting in March each year and they are due by July 1. We expect to have interviews during the last two weeks of July and have our team selected by the first week of August. The application requires a single pdf that contains your statement of interest, a confirmation of your availability for the October-March duration, your level of spanish fluency, your experience driving a manual transmission vehicle, a copy of your resume or CV and contact details for two references, and is saved with the file name that includes your last name, TLT field biologist, and the year. All applications are submitted via email with the indication “Field Biologist Position” on the subject line.