

Monitoring field leaders for Loggerhead nesting projects in Greece-ARCHELON

Volunteer Opportunity

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WWW Link: www.archelon.gr

Period

May to October (might differ slightly by project)

Locations

1. [Zakynthos - Laganas Bay](#), 2. [The Peloponnese- Kyparissia Bay](#), 3. [The Peloponnese - Lakonikos Bay](#), 4. [The Peloponnese - Koroni](#), 5. [Crete-Rethymno](#), 6- [Crete-Chania](#), 7. [Crete-Messara Bay](#), 8. [Western Greece \(Preveza\)](#) 9. [Amvrakikos Bay](#)

Background Information

Since 1983, the primary objective of ARCHELON, the Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece has been to protect the sea turtles and their habitats in Greece through monitoring and research, habitat restoration, raising public awareness and rehabilitating sick and injured turtles. ARCHELON runs programmes in all the main nesting beaches as well as in foraging areas of Loggerhead Sea Turtles in Greece.

Duties

Each Monitoring Field Leader is responsible for conducting and managing the monitoring of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle nesting activity undertaken during a specific summer project, including managing the work on the beaches and ensuring the quality of all data collected. He/she works under the supervision of the corresponding Project Officer.

In more detail, the data collection and recording duties include leading daily morning surveys of the nesting beaches, mapping of sea turtle nests, conducting active nest management for nest protection and excavations, dealing with strandings of dead or injured turtles. Especially in the Zakynthos, south Kyparissiakos bay and Rethymno projects, Monitoring Field Leaders organize and run tagging programs through night surveys.

Monitoring Field Leaders organize beach patrols in order to ensure that the beaches are adequately safe for sea turtle nesting, and participate in Public Awareness activities informing people and recording any violations that would harm the sea turtles. They are responsible for the training, supervision and motivation of a multiethnic team of volunteers, organizing the scientific data in Excel databases and writing a final monitoring report for the Head Office (within the given deadlines). They are also responsible for the maintenance and preservation of the monitoring equipment.

All Field Leaders (Monitoring, Public Awareness and Camp & Volunteer Coordinator) share the responsibility for the smooth organization and operation of the project by organizing the weekly schedule (rota) and ensuring the organization of the team, the motivation of the volunteers and the management of any problems occurring within the season, always by reporting and dealing with them in good cooperation with the Project Officer of the area.

Requirements

- Age over 20 years old
- Fluent English language
- Valid car driving license
- Experience (one year minimum) in leading sea turtle field projects (experience in managing groups, identification of sea turtle tracks and locating nests by digging for eggs, PIT and flipper tagging, nest excavations, dealing with hatchlings, conservation of the sea turtles, crisis management)
- Hardworking, sociable, reliable, enthusiastic, organizational, committed person who can work under a challenging work environment and demanding schedule
- Capability to live in basic living conditions and under adverse climatic conditions
- Volunteer management skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Good physical condition [duties include long working hours in the heat (sometimes up to 6 hours at a time), and some of the sites are reached by walking; duties can be hard and exhausting]
- Good at public speaking and reporting

Preferred/ Desired additional skills

- Academic background/ experience in Biology, Ecology, Zoology, Marine Science, Marine Conservation
- First Aid certification
- Use of computers and relevant new technologies, such as UAVs (drones) and GPS

Benefits/Costs

Basic subsistence expenses (accommodation and food) in the project site will be covered by ARCHELON. Accommodation usually includes space for putting up your tent. Communal facilities including cooking will be provided in organized campsites. There will be private insurance coverage for accidents up to a certain ceiling.

Travel expenses to Greece are not provided by ARCHELON and must be covered by the Field Leaders. Travel expenses to the project sites within Greece must also be covered by the Field Leaders, with the notable exception of participation in introductory information sessions and training events organized by ARCHELON (see below).

Introductory information sessions

Candidates selected for the first time to be Field Leaders, will be asked to participate in introductory information sessions in early May (the exact dates and the location are not yet finalized). Participant accommodation and lunches/ dinners, as well as transportation within Greece will be provided by ARCHELON.

NB. The availability of candidates to attend these sessions will influence the final selection of Field Leaders.

Specific training events on monitoring, public awareness and fund raising for Field Leaders will be organized during the nesting season. Details will be announced at a later stage. Accommodation and transportation within Greece will be provided by ARCHELON.

Further contact and application info

If interested, please send an email to archelon.projects@gmail.com with the following:

- Application form that you can download from [HERE](#)
- Short Curriculum Vitae (400-900 words)

NB. The application deadline is 31st January 2019. The selection is expected to be finalized until 30 March 2019. Early applications have more possibilities to be considered as the places are limited. Short interviews with candidates maybe organized by Skype in an informal manner.