

# Guana Tolomato Matanzaz Research Reserve

## Volunteer Program

*To provide meaningful opportunities and rewarding experiences by developing and expanding the capacity of the reserve and accomplish its goals with the help of volunteers.*

Volunteers assist with all aspects of the GTM Research Reserve program including resource management, ecosystem science, education and administrative activities. Volunteers give the reserve the ability to accomplish its management and conservation goals at a faster pace and higher level. Each volunteer opportunity, although different, contributes an important part to the organization as a whole.



### Volunteer Benefits

- Network both personally and professionally
  - Public speaking opportunities
  - Strengthen leadership skills
  - Complete community service hours
- Attend educational and training opportunities
  - Explore new interests
- Share and increase volunteer's knowledge
  - Recognition and awards for service
  - Reference for future jobs
  - Volunteer appreciation events

Volunteer positions are designed to help complete the priority projects in the Unit Management Plan. The following are some of the on-going volunteer positions by team.

### Education and Outreach

- Estuary Explorer Educator
- Exhibit Hall Docents
- Outreach Programs Facilitator

### Research and Ecosystem Science

- Marine Turtle Specialist
- Wildlife Monitoring
- Fresh Water Marsh Well Monitoring

### Resource Management

- Invasive Species Eradication

### Visitor Management

- Front Desk Greeter
- Nature Store Assistant

### Other Programs

- Special Events
- Photographers
- Data Processing
- Cultural and Historical Research

### Total Enrollment and Hours September 2005 – October 2010

- Number of current volunteers – 403
- Number of volunteers who served hours – 394
- Total number of jobs served by volunteers – 73
- Average number of hours served per volunteer – 133.08
- Number of hours served during this period – 51,103.33



### Volunteer Recognition

Volunteer benefits, awards and recognition are linked to the number of hours contributed to the reserve. Tracking the number of volunteer time served also allows the reserve to exhibit the need for more staff and increased budget to the State of Florida governing bodies.

#### Benefits

- Worker's Compensation
- Education and Training
- Expenses and support reimbursement

#### Recognition

- Volunteer Recognition Dinner
- Volunteer of the Year Award
- Special Contribution Award
- Team Volunteer Awards

