



ΑΡΧΕΛΩΝ - Σύλλογος για την Προστασία της Θαλάσσιας Χελώνας
ARCHELON - Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece

Athens, 13th February 2023

Ref. Num.: 29534

Subject: **Volunteering / Internship Opportunities for sea turtle conservation in Greece in 2023**

To whom it may concern,

ARCHELON, a nonprofit conservation organization active since 1983, runs a number of volunteer projects for the protection of sea turtles and their habitats in Greece every year. More than 500 international volunteers per year participate in our projects, including about 30 field leaders. Every year we are entering in internship agreements with 70 Universities and other educational establishments from all over the world.

With this letter we are providing information about our projects for 2023 and the volunteering/internship opportunities available in order to help students prepare their applications.

Our projects for 2023

- **Protecting sea turtle nesting activity in 7 locations**

Locations: Zakynthos, the Peloponnese (Kyparissia – Lakonikos - Koroni) and Crete (Rethymno – Chania – Messara).

Participation period: From May to mid-October. These sites together host about 50% of the nests of the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) in the whole Mediterranean.

Activities/tasks: monitoring of nesting activity, nest and hatchling protection, public awareness, fundraising, living in a campsite and maintaining common living spaces with an international team of volunteers.

- **Taking care of rescued sea turtles and other operations of ARCHELON's Sea Turtle Rescue Centre**

Location: Glyfada, near Athens

Participation period: All year round. The Centre receives about 70 rescued sea turtles per year from all over Greece, which are injured or sick. The turtles receive treatment and care and when they are fully rehabilitated, they are released back into the sea

Activities/tasks: participation in the Rescue network, the sea turtle care and rehabilitation schedule, the public awareness/fundraising schedule, the tanks/surgery/open space maintenance duties, the data collection needs, living in shared rooms with a small team of volunteers.



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- **Monitoring sea turtles in the foraging area of Amvrakikos bay**

Location: Amvrakikos bay, Kopraina

Participation period: From end-June to end-August (two fixed time periods). The shallow waters of Amvrakikos bay provide a great opportunity for studying loggerheads and green turtles foraging in the area.

Activities/tasks: daily transects with the boat where turtles are captured, measured and released within a few minutes, living in shared rooms and maintaining common spaces with a small team of volunteers.

Volunteering / Internship Opportunities for 2023

For 2023 projects we are offering opportunities for **full time volunteers** as well as **field leaders**.

Full time volunteers (*pls. open the hyperlink for more info*)

Full time volunteers receive induction upon arrival by their field leaders and they are consequently trained on the spot. Their duties are well described, following international monitoring standards. The organization of our projects has been evolving through the 37 years of experience in running them. Below are the projects which are available for full time volunteers:

- **Protecting sea turtle nesting activity in 7 locations**
- **Taking care of rescued sea turtles and other operations of the Sea Turtle Rescue Centre**
- **Monitoring sea turtles in the foraging area of Amvrakikos bay**

Field Leaders (*pls. open the hyperlink for more info*)

Field leaders are volunteers selected on the basis of their experience and skills and they are responsible for leading the teams in the nesting beach conservation projects as below:

- **Protecting sea turtle nesting activity in 7 locations**

Field Leaders are volunteers responsible for leading the teams and ensuring the proper on-site implementation of sea turtle monitoring actions (Monitoring Field leaders), public awareness actions (Public Awareness Field Leaders) and the good state of ARCHELONs Research Stations (Camp and Volunteer Leaders).

Online introductory sessions will be organized for the selected Field leaders at the end of April/beginning of May, their exact dates and times will be communicated in due time.

IMPORTANT NOTE: the deadline for applying for a Field leader post is the **1st March 2023**.

As the success of our work in protecting sea turtles in Greece relies mainly on the participation of volunteers, we would be really grateful if you could publish this text along with ARCHELON's Volunteer



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Poster and Leaflet to your newsletter, magazine or add it in your announcement board and/or website. You may also distribute our call for volunteers to your supporters by other means that you find suitable.

Information on our projects and instructions on how to apply can be found on our website, www.archelon.gr. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any questions or proposals you may have. Thank you in advance for your kind consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

F. Papanikolaou

Fryni Papanikolaou
Volunteers Officer