Annual Membership Meeting and Board of Directors Election

The 2021 Annual Membership Meeting and Board of Director Elections will be held via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 2. During this meeting, highlights of the 2021 STPS year will be presented, and an electronic online election for open board of directors positions will be held. STPS welcomes your support and encourages participation in this year's annual meeting. To register for the meeting, please use this link: STPS annual meeting registration.
Everyone is invited to attend the meeting, but only STPS members may vote in the board of directors election. Members also may vote without attending the annual meeting, and all STPS members will receive a separate email with voting instructions ahead of the election. Please note, that per STPS bylaws, only the primary contact for each membership can vote in the election.

It is important to make sure your membership profile is up to date and accurate in order to participate in the board election voting process. Please note that membership accounts are not the same as volunteer, or VIC, accounts. If you have forgotten the username and password to your membership account, please reach out to membership@seaturtlespacecoast.org.

To update your profile, please use this link How to Update a Membership Profile by Monday, Nov. 22. The membership coordinator will then gather the information to be sent to the secretary to set up electronic voting for the meeting.
Thanks to everyone who helped make this year’s Turtle Krawl 5K a success. We appreciate each and every one of our participants, sponsors, donors, and volunteers – especially the Turtle Krawl Committee members.

This year’s event took place on Sept. 11 at Nance Park in Indialantic, FL, with nearly 1,000 participants crossing the finish line. Overall, 1,634 people registered for the event, including 410 that took part in the virtual race.

For race results, please visit the RunSignUp site below.
Thank you to our 2021 Turtle Krawl sponsors:

Fiesta Bar&Grill, Blinds Of All Kinds, DSK Law, Islands Fish Grill, Absolutely Natural, Dale Sorensen Real Estate, Southern Cloud Solutions, Joel Likes To Photo, Buckingham Strategic Wealth, Animal Specialty & Emergency Center of Brevard, OMNI Healthcare, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Florida, Running Zone, Maronda Homes, APDTY.com, Turtle Island Natural Soap Co.
After the finish of this year’s race, STPS hosted a sea turtle release on the beach at Nance Park. A young juvenile green sea turtle, named Cousin It, was released after spending time recovering at the Brevard Zoo’s Sea Turtle Healing Center after stranding March 6 at Oceanside Paradise Resort.
Calling All Volunteers

With more than 450 active volunteers now supporting our STPS mission, it was time to revamp our volunteer process. STPS volunteer coordinator Sarah Tolson and her team worked hard to create a streamlined process to meet both the needs of the organization and the volunteers. Here's some information about the new process:

- All new volunteers are required to submit an online application and then attend a brief interview. After interviews, volunteers will be required to become members (if they are not yet), purchase their volunteer nametags and T-shirts, and then attend the new, revised volunteer orientation. These orientations will be offered quarterly.
- Volunteers will then need to attend any additional trainings or meetings necessary for the programs that they are supporting. These volunteers also must complete a 20-hour probationary period before they can begin volunteering with certain programs. They can earn these hours by participating in beach cleanups, events, educational programs, helping with organizational needs, and so much more.
- All volunteers, including new and current volunteers, are expected to follow all STPS policies, procedures, and guidelines. Volunteers are expected to keep their membership active and in good standing.
- As part of the new process, an updated version of the STPS volunteer handbook was sent a few months ago to all current volunteers from the volunteer coordinator. All volunteers should review this document, which can also be found on the homepage in VIC.

**An important change to note: To be an active volunteer, you must participate and record hours each calendar year.** Inactive volunteers
who wish to volunteer with STPS at a later date will be required to go through the volunteer process again, including a new 20-hour probation period.

If anyone has questions, contact Sarah at volunteer@seaturtlespacecoast.org

There’s lots of other news from the Volunteer Coordinator as well. Check it out!

**Come out and see us**

Volunteer Gatherings that had started before the pandemic hit will be resuming this month, and more will be coming soon. These are great opportunities to get to know other volunteers, learn about how you can get more involved, ask questions, enjoy good food, and so much more. We hope you'll be able to join us for dinner on Friday, Nov. 19. See this evite for details and to RSVP: [http://evite.me/XMPdeD2sMr](http://evite.me/XMPdeD2sMr)

**Tell us what you think**

We would love feedback from our volunteers. If you haven't already completed the survey, please go to [https://forms.gle/AvTMFPA6nBSHfTJ17](https://forms.gle/AvTMFPA6nBSHfTJ17) to provide STPS with some feedback and suggestions for improvement. It only will take about 5 minutes of your time.

**Are you missing out?**

Are you getting volunteer communications? Communications are typically sent out every one to two weeks. If you're not getting communication from our Volunteer Coordinator, there are a few things for you to check: 1) Ensure you can login to VIC. If you cannot access VIC from the volunteer tab on our website, this means you are not an active volunteer in our system. You can email Sarah at
volunteer@seaturtlespacecoast.org for assistance. 2) If you can login to VIC but you’re only getting a few emails here and there, that means you probably need to sign up for the Slack app. Slack allows STPS to send communication about many volunteer opportunities without clogging up inboxes with many, many emails. Slack lets you customize how/when you get notifications. You can even customize which programs you want to receive updates from, those you want to mute, etc. We have about 450 STPS volunteers, but only have 158 participating on Slack. If you are not on Slack, you are not receiving many of our volunteer updates. A registration link was sent out to all active volunteers on Nov. 4. If you did not get this email, or if you need assistance, please reach out to Sarah at volunteer@seaturtlespacecoast.org

Help Wanted
We are looking for volunteers in these areas:

- Turtle Krawl Race Director
- Monthly Meeting Coordinator
- Tech-minded volunteers to help with livestreams, hybrid meetings and Zoom
- Membership Coordinator
- Port Kiosk volunteers
- Graphic designers
- ...we also have opportunities for events posted in VIC.

More information can be found on the STPS website, in Slack, and in emails sent from our volunteer coordinator, or you can email Sarah at volunteer@seaturtlespacecoast.org to find out more.
Volunteer Program Information
What's Happening in STPS

Nesting Season Wrap-Up
The 2021 nest survey season has come to a close. This season STPS volunteers documented 304 total nests within our two-mile survey area in Cocoa Beach. This total included 295 loggerheads, 7 greens, and two leatherbacks. More than 60 nest success evaluations were completed, which showed that 5,093 hatchlings emerged from marked nests in our survey area this season. Thanks to everyone who participated on this season's survey teams.

Membership Welcome Packages
In 2021, STPS introduced a welcome package benefit for all new and renewing members. This package includes an informational welcome letter, a membership card, and a logo car magnet. The membership committee has received great feedback about the packages, and it's great to see members proudly displaying their magnets. This package goes out at the beginning of each month for new memberships and renewals purchased in the previous month. Packages are mailed to the address in your membership profile, so please update your profile as needed. If you need help with your profile, please use this link: How to Update a Membership Profile. If a package is returned, the membership committee will email to let you know and try to resend it. Thank you for your continued support of STPS and sea turtles.

Membership News
STPS is in need of a volunteer to serve as membership coordinator and oversee our membership program and committee. For more information, please email Sarah at volunteer@seaturtlespacecoast.org

Currently, STPS has 849 memberships that includes 1,135 members.
Events Updates
The events committee is getting back to normal community events. In October, STPS participated in all three weekends of Brevard Zoo’s Boo at the Zoo event. STPS volunteers had a great time celebrating and handing out candy.

In November, STPS participated in the Satellite Beach Founder’s Day celebration on Nov. 6 and then will also be at Florida Wildlife Hospital’s Hoot in the Park event on Nov. 20. In December, look for STPS at the Ocean Beach Reef Festival on Dec. 4.

Fundraising Update
The fundraising committee is now accepting donations for our silent auction in celebration of World Sea Turtle Day in June. Donated items should be new; gift certificates, experiences or other similar items also are welcome. Items may be dropped off at either STPS location.

STPS continues to receive partnership requests through the Partner with Us page on the STPS website. Please take a few minutes to check out the STPS current supporters on the Support page on the STPS website.

The fundraising committee plans to start some new fundraising events in 2022. Stay tuned and make sure to follow us on social media. Don’t forget to check out the STPS gift shops and online store for your holiday shopping.
The education center at the Turtle House is getting a new look. Work continues on a redesign project funded by the Sea Turtle Grants Program. To date, new lighting and other electrical work has been completed, and the walls boast a fresh, bright coat of paint.

Next up, and now being built, are new interactive areas that will function as dual display and storage units. The committee would like to thank Regal Custom Painting for generously donating the paint and crew needed to complete the
The STPS education program was awarded a $7,500 grant through the Sea Turtle Grants Program to update and modernize the current education center at the Turtle House in Indialantic. The redesign will feature interactive displays that guide visitors through the life cycle of a sea turtle and the ways in which STPS helps sea turtles survive. The Sea Turtle Grants Program, funded by the sale of Florida’s “Helping Sea Turtles Survive” specialty license plate, awarded more than $415,000 to 26 different projects benefiting Florida sea turtles as part of the 2021-22 grant funding cycle. The sea turtle specialty license plate is also the primary source of funding for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s Marine Turtle Protection Program.

Toys For Tots Drop-off

STPS will once again be a Toys for Tots drop-off location. Starting Nov. 1, drop boxes will be available at both of our gift shop locations to receive new, unwrapped items for the program. Donations may be dropped off through Dec. 10 at either the Turtle House in Indialantic or Turtle Nest kiosk at Port Canaveral.
2022 STPS Photo Calendar is Here

The first ever photo calendars have arrived and are available at both STPS locations as well as the STPS online store. Supplies are limited, so don't wait too long to get yours.
Mark your calendars, this year

GivingTuesday is Nov. 30!

Giving Tuesday is an opportunity for people around the world to stand together in unity — to use their individual power of generosity to remain connected and heal.

Here are some ways that you can help support STPS this GivingTuesday:

· Start a Facebook fundraiser to support STPS
· Participate in a beach clean-up or do your own beach clean-up
· Symbolically adopt a sea turtle through the STPS website or pick up a packet at one of our locations
· Make a donation
· Sign up to volunteer in one of our many programs
· See if your employer will match your donation/gift
· Help share STPS message by sharing or reposting an STPS post on social media. You can also post about why you support STPS and our mission to help sea turtles survive.
· Make sure your Amazon account is set up for Amazon Smile.
· Give the gift of an STPS membership this holiday season.
· Visit with one of our sponsorship partners

Dean Bagley's Turtle Update

UCF Marine Turtle Research Group researcher Dean Bagley reports that signals from satellite transmitters on both Everett and Peter have been lost. The two male green sea turtles were tagged earlier this year as part of Bagley’s research, and the work was funded through a donation from STPS.
Everett's last GPS signal was received on Sept. 22, 2021, in the same area as the previous few weeks, just a little southwest of the Marquesas Keys. Everett was deployed on June 9, 2021, from Melbourne Beach.
Peter’s last GPS signal was received on Oct. 25, 2021.

Although the signals did not last as long as she had hoped, Bagley believes the data will be valuable to further understanding sea turtles.
Stay connected with STPS

Website: seaturtlespacecoast.org

Here you’ll find our Loggerhead Lowdown blog, calendar of events and other information for members and volunteers.

On social media, you can keep up with STPS, the Turtle House Gift Shop, and the Turtle Krawl 5K on Facebook and Instagram.

Facebook: Sea Turtle Preservation Society.

You can also keep up with what’s happening at the gift shop by liking STPS Turtle House Gift Shop on Facebook.

Instagram: seaturtleps.

For questions, contact news@seaturtlespacecoast.org

Our mailing address is:
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Indialantic, FL 32903

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