



DALE NESEMAN/SPECIAL TO THE COURIER NEWSWEEKLY

'TURTLEFEST'

*Everyone
benefits from
ocean-themed
fest*

... Especially VOLUNTEERS

EDITOR'S NOTE:
The following is a Guest Editorial written by a member of the Jupiter area community.

This will be my fourth TurtleFest. And it seems like yesterday that I was involved with my very first one. I remember thinking ... "How are there so many people here?" And that - is no exaggeration.

10,000-PLUS

More than 10,000 people enjoy Palm Beach County's favorite ocean-themed festival, TurtleFest, every year. The free event will be held on Saturday, March 19, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Loggerhead Marinelife Center and the surrounding Loggerhead Park, in Juno Beach. It is the thirteenth anniversary of the event, which means we will need more volunteers than ever.

The festival will feature beautiful art, shopping, games, crafts, a rock-climbing wall, gymnastics, giant slide, live music and up-close interactions with threatened and endangered sea turtles.

Can't forget the various food and beverage vendors offering delicious tastes from around the globe.

Since the event is so large, it requires many hardworking and dedicated volunteers for the day. So, we asked three past TurtleFest volunteers what their favorite part of volunteering at TurtleFest actually was.

I think their answers are quite convincing. ...

•THE PEOPLE

The people are one the top reasons to volunteer at TurtleFest, according to Irene McIsaac, an LMC volunteer for more than four years.

"People are exciting," McIsaac says.

She loves working TurtleFest ... and now can't wait to work this year as well.

"You're able to meet so many different people from all over the world at TurtleFest - I absolutely love the people," she added.

"TurtleFest presents a wonderful opportunity to meet people who are passionate about sea turtle and ocean conservation," she adds.

• OPPORTUNITY TO EDUCATE

Evie Tibett has been working in the arts & crafts section of TurtleFest for four years.

Her favorite reason to volunteer at TurtleFest is the opportunity to educate people on the importance of ocean and sea turtle conservation.

"TurtleFest is a great family event," Tibett says.

She has been working at LMC for nearly six years as an education docent in the turtle

yard. "I am so excited to volunteer at TurtleFest again this year!" she adds.

• SUPPORTING A LOCAL NONPROFIT

Working TurtleFest allows volunteers to be official Loggerhead Marinelife Center ambassadors.

Howard Sydney, who has volunteered at LMC for more than a year, says the top reason to volunteer at TurtleFest is the "ability to support a local nonprofit and the community."

In order to create a successful festival, the center needs enthusiastic volunteers to make a memorable and fun experience for visitors.

"TurtleFest is a great way to get the message out about what LMC does for the community," Sydney says.

And yes! He volunteered for Turtle-

Fest last year ... and is planning on working it again.

YOUR CHOICE!

TurtleFest volunteers will receive a meal and T-shirt. Volunteers can choose a four and a half-hour shift in the morning or afternoon.

If you're interested in volunteering, please fill out an online application at www.marinelife.org/turtlefest or e-mail csampson@marinelife.org. LMC is also looking for artists to exhibit at the festival and vendors to sell eco-friendly, marine-themed merchandise.

Visit www.marinelife.org/turtlefest or e-mail krumbley@marinelife.org to participate as a vendor in TurtleFest 2016.

I hope to see you there!

Kathryn Rumbley
Loggerhead Marinelife Center
14200 U.S. 1
Juno Beach
561-627-8280; ext 115