



Hatchling Release Program

What is a Hatchling Release?

An exciting and unique program about sea turtles beginning in Gumbo Limbo's classroom, followed by a trip to the beach to watch Gumbo Limbo Staff release baby sea turtles into the ocean!

Will we see a nest hatch?

Unfortunately, no, as we cannot predict exactly when a sea turtle nest will hatch. The hatchlings we will release during the program are recently hatched, and excavated by trained personnel.

Will we get to touch a sea turtle?

This is a hands-off program. Per our Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Marine Turtle Permit, only the individuals listed on our permit can touch the sea turtles.

Where do we go on the night of our reservation?

On the evening of the program, park in Gumbo Limbo's parking lot and follow the "Program" signs to the classroom. Please bring your email confirmation. Check-in will begin 15 minutes before the start of the program, and the presentation will begin promptly. After the presentation is complete, we will caravan to the beach for the release. You will need your own transportation to the beach.

What if it rains?

Bring a raincoat! Sea turtles will scurry to the ocean in the rain, so our program will go on. If there is lightning, we will not go to the beach, but we will not make that decision until that evening as afternoon storms often clear by the evening.

Can I take pictures or use my phone at the beach?

Cameras without a flash may be used. Video cameras without lights produce good results especially if they have infrared "night shot" ability. Cell phone use is not permitted on the beach; the light from your phone will disturb turtles. Flashlights and other lights are not allowed on the beach.

Anything else I should know?

It is recommended that you wear medium or dark colored clothes. Sneakers or sturdy sandals are best for walking in the sand. You may want to use bug spray to protect yourself against mosquitoes.

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