

BELIZE FOUNDATION for RESEARCH and ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



BFREE Volunteer Field Assistant Application

BFREE Overview:

The Belize Foundation for Research & Environmental Education (BFREE) is located in the foothills of the Maya Mountains on a 1153 acre biological field station in southern Belize. Founded in 1995, BFREE's primary goals are to assist the government of Belize in the conservation of Belize's protected areas and natural resources. This is achieved through facilitating scientific research, conducting environmental education programs and helping increase conservation awareness within the buffer communities nearest BFREE. Over the last twenty years more than 100 interns and long-term volunteers have stayed at our tropical research station in the middle of one of Central America's largest remaining tracts of intact rainforest. Not only have volunteers benefited from the unique experience of living and working in the tropical rainforest, but their creative contributions and hard work have helped tremendously with our wildlands conservation, sustainable living, and environmental research and education efforts.

Opportunities for Learning:

Nestled in the foothills of the Maya Mountains along the Bladen River, surrounded by more than a million acres of protected tropical rainforest, *BFREE* offers an extraordinary opportunity to learn how a non-profit research station runs in an area with spectacular wildlife and scenery. *BFREE* volunteer field assistants will be matched to a specific project depending on their interests and skills. Currently we are searching for volunteers to assist with projects in tropical agriculture, sustainable forestry, conservation of the Central American river turtle, and ornithological studies.

Applicants can apply for one of the three available Volunteer Field Assistant positions:

1) BFREE Avian Volunteer Field Assistant:

- Facilitate the development of hot spots for other resident and migrant birds around the BFREE reserve to describe diversity; including canopy species as observed from a 114 foot observation tower, along the Bladen River, and in comparison habitats of an agroforestry plot versus pristine forest
- Collect data to be submitted into eBirds and entered into an onsite database
- Develop the protocol for eBird data and monitoring program at BFREE
- Monitor a colony of Agami herons and Boat-billed Herons to determine nesting habits and successful hatchings, as well as mating and other social behaviors

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2) BFREE Volunteer Field Assistant:

- Conduct a pre-approved personal research experiment for professional growth
- Support BFREE's Tropical Agriculture and Sustainable Forestry programs by working in the cacao and coffee agroforest and supporting harvest and fermentation processes of cacao
- Partake in the research and conservation of the critically endangered Central American River turtle known as the hicatee at the Hicatee Conservation & Research Center at the BFREE Field Station
- Perform avian data collection at various hot-spots around the BFREE Field Station

3) BFREE Hicatee Turtle Conservation & Research Volunteer Field Assistant:

- Assist in the daily feeding and care of the adult turtles and hatchlings and perform feeding trials
- Document growth on the hatchlings
- Clean and maintain tanks for hatchlings
- Assist in routine maintenance of the Hicatee Conservation and Research Center
- Collect observational data on the turtles

Requirements:

- Have a positive and flexible attitude, a desire to learn and work hard as well as the willingness to adapt to a changing work environment.
- Comfortable living in remote and rustic living conditions in a tropical environment and have a strong ability to get along with others in tight, close-knit, living conditions.
- Commitment to BFREE's mission and a passion for the environment and conservation
- BFREE Avian Volunteer Field Assistant must be proficient and active on eBird
- Selected applicants must complete a physician signed health form of good health

Availability:

BFREE is seeking 5-6 motivated Volunteer Field Assistants for the Summer 2017 season. Availability for Volunteer Field Assistants range from May 1 - July 31, 2017. Start dates are flexible however, applicants must apply for a minimum of three weeks and a maximum of seven weeks.

Costs:

This is a complete volunteer position, Field Assistants will need to pay for their own travel costs to the BFREE Field Station and a project fee of \$350 per week (3 week minimum required). This project fee covers food and accommodations while at the BFREE Field Station. A large number of past students have received funding and/or credit from their host institution to participate. Belizean rates available for local students

Application Process:

Applications should be e-mailed to Tyler Sanville, BFREE Program Coordinator by May 31, 2017 for Summer 2017 opportunities at tsanville@bfreebz.org

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Personal Information

First Name:			Family Name:		
Date of birth:		Nationality:		Gender:	
Primary Address:					
Email:			Telephone:		
Passport no:		Expiration date:		Place of issue:	
Do you have any dietary requirements? If so, please specify:					
Preferred project:		Preferred start date:		Desired length of stay:	

Emergency Contacts

Name:			Relationship to you:		
Home phone:			Work phone:		
Cell phone:			Email:		

Name:			Relationship to you:		
Home phone:			Work phone:		
Cell phone:			Email:		

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Education

TYPE OF SCHOOL	NAME AND LOCATION	DEGREE/DATE	MAJOR
High School	_____	_____	_____
College	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Scholastic Honors and/or certifications _____

Employment History (includes paid positions, internships, and volunteering)

Most recent employer: _____

Phone number: _____

Address: _____

Supervisor Name/Title: _____

Position Title: _____ Start Date: _____ End Date: _____

Duties: _____

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Employer: _____

Phone number: _____

Address: _____

Supervisor Name/Title: _____

Position title: _____ Start date: _____ End date: _____

Duties: _____

Employer: _____

Phone number: _____

Address: _____

Supervisor Name/Title: _____

Position title: _____ Start date: _____ End date: _____

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Duties: _____

References:

Name: _____ **Phone number:** _____

Company/School: _____

Relationship: _____ **Known how long:** _____

Name: _____ **Phone number:** _____

Company/School: _____

Relationship: _____ **Known how long:** _____

Name: _____ **Phone number:** _____

Company/School: _____

Relationship: _____ **Known how long:** _____

Experiences and achievements: _____

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Publications and articles*: _____
Other activities and skills relevant to the volunteer position(s) for which you are applying: _____

Please select which position you are applying for:

- BFREE Avian Volunteer Field Assistant**
- BFREE Volunteer Field Assistant**
- BFREE Hicatee Turtle Conservation & Research Volunteer Field Assistant**

Please provide short answers to the following questions:

1. What specific skills and past experiences make you a good match for this field assistant position?

2. Describe one personal strength and how you would apply it while at BFREE.

3. Describe one personal growth area that you feel would be developed while at BFREE.

4. Please describe any past experiences that have prepared you to live in an isolated rainforest setting hours from the nearest human settlement.

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Health Form

Have you ever had any of the following conditions? Please check all that apply and use the space below to provide additional details.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anemia | <input type="checkbox"/> Epilepsy/seizures | <input type="checkbox"/> Migraines/severe headaches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asthma | <input type="checkbox"/> Heart conditions | <input type="checkbox"/> Orthopedic problems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cancer | <input type="checkbox"/> (murmur, arrhythmia) | <input type="checkbox"/> (sprains, strains, fractures) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic back conditions | <input type="checkbox"/> Heat or cold sensitivity | <input type="checkbox"/> Skin conditions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes | <input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis | <input type="checkbox"/> Stomach/intestinal conditions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dizziness/balance conditions | <input type="checkbox"/> High blood pressure | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuberculosis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eating disorder | <input type="checkbox"/> Malaria | |

- Have you been hospitalized or had surgery in the past year? _____
- Do you have any phobias which might affect your participation? _____
- Do you have any allergies to drugs, food, insects, etc.? _____
- Have you ever been diagnosed with or treated for a psychiatric condition such as bipolar disorder or depression? _____

If you have answered yes to any of the above, please explain in detail.

List all prescription medications that you are taking including the reason for taking it, length of time you've been taking it, and the current dosage.

Describe your current level of physical activity. Give examples.

How far can you walk before tiring?

Participant Signature: _____ Date: _____