

## **MUSEUM MEMO**

ΜΑΥ

## In The Spotlight



Did you know Sea Turtle nesting season is May 1-October 31? Along the coastlines of Florida, Sea Turtles annually make from 40,000 to 84,000 nests. The eggs have an incubation period of about two months.

Visit the museum to learn more about these large, air-breathing reptiles that inhabit tropical and subtropical seas throughout the world.

## **Please Help Protect our Sea Turtles!**



Sea Turtles area protected species. Scientists estimate that only 1 in 1,000 to 10,000 babies will survive to adulthood. During nesting season please observe the following rules:

- Beach campfires/bonfires are prohibited in Flagler Beach.
- Do not touch or disturb the Sea Turtle eggs or hatchlings. Please watch that children follow this rule.
- Do not dig into a marked or unmarked nest to save eggs or hatchlings at any time, even during approaching or receding storms.
- Eggs and /or hatchlings may not be kept in homes or personal aquariums.
- Do not shine lights or take flash photos on the beach during nesting season.
- If you dig holes on the beach, please fill them in before you leave.
- Please take plastic bags and latex balloons with you when you leave. Sea turtles mistake these items for food in the water.
- Please take chairs, pails, buckets, umbrellas, and canopies with you when you leave the beach.

For more information, please visit Volusia/Flagler Turtle Patrol at <u>www.turtlepatrol.com</u>. To report an injured or dead turtle, call Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Law Enforcement at 888-404-3922.

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