

SEA TURTLE FRIENDLY CERTIFIED RESORT

A Conservation Partnership Program for Hilton Head Island Resorts
with Sea Turtle Patrol HHI & Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce



Opportunity

Hilton Head Island's beaches are critical nesting grounds for endangered sea turtles. The Sea Turtle Friendly Certified (STFC) Resort Program recognizes beachfront resorts that actively protect sea turtles, educate guests, and operate responsibly along our coastline.

Certification is more than a designation, it's a visible commitment to conservation that guests, meeting planners, and the community value.

Why It Matters

Hilton Head Island is a critical nesting habitat for sea turtles. Small actions, like proper beach lighting, filling holes, and removing trash and equipment, make a big difference. Island guests want to do the right thing; **Sea Turtle Friendly Certified Resorts** gives them the knowledge to do so.

Benefits of Certification

- Recognized as good stewards of the coastline
- Sea Turtle Friendly Certified seal and signage for display
- Complimentary sea turtle messaging materials
- Featured on Hilton Head Island Chamber of Commerce and Sea Turtle Patrol HHI websites
- Recognition on Chamber and Sea Turtle Patrol HHI social media platforms
- Weekly Sea Turtle Talk presented by Sea Turtle Patrol HHI exclusively for your guests (nominal fee)
- STPHHI-led corporate give-back activity for group events
- Sea Turtle Experience: seasonal opportunity for guests to shadow Sea Turtle Patrol HHI (based on availability June-August)

Contact Info

- ✉ kathy@seaturtlepatrolhhi.org
- ☎ 314-803-4025
- 🌐 www.seaturtlepatrolhhi.org

Certification Criteria

🌿 Sea Turtle Friendly Lighting

- Sea turtle friendly lighting on all oceanfront areas of the property

🌿 Sea Turtle Education

- Offer an official Sea Turtle Talk or turtle education effort for guests. Example: children's programming with Sea Turtle Friendly education
- Post a visible schedule of free public Sea Turtle Talks at Celebration Park - (June, July & August | 8-9 PM)
- Encourage resort employees to attend a Sea Turtle Talk

🌿 Sea Turtle Friendly Messaging

- "Put the Beach to Bed" vinyl cling on balcony doors or room refrigerators
- Sea Turtle Awareness information in:
 - Lobbies
 - Elevators
 - Pool areas
 - Beach access points
- Sea Turtle Patrol HHI public service message on hotel TV channel(s)
- Guest text messaging with sea turtle awareness reminders
- STFC logo displayed on website and social media

🌿 Put the Beach to Bed

- Remove all human-made debris, towels, and equipment from the beach nightly by sundown

🌿 Sustainability Practices

- Sustainable to-go containers
- Paper straws
- Refillable water bottles and water stations
- Beach toy borrow bin

🌿 Retail or Guest Giveaways

- Red-beam flashlights
- Refillable water bottles
- Reusable bags
- Stickers or temporary tattoos
- Sea turtle stuffies

Ongoing Certification & Evaluation

- Once certified, resorts must pass an annual evaluation to remain in the program
- Annual reviews ensure continued compliance, consistency, and meaningful impact

Become a Proud Participating Sea Turtle Friendly Certified Resort

Leading the Way in Sea Turtle-Safe Hospitality

