

Thank you for choosing to **Adopt-A-Nest** at Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park!

Here is a list of important “do’s and don’ts”

1. It is **against the law** to touch nesting sea turtles, hatchlings or their nests. Human contact can be an unnecessary source of stress to nesting females. In addition, unwanted bacterial exchange can occur between humans and turtles. Allowing hatchlings to crawl to the ocean on their own enables them to imprint on their own beach and return when they are ready to make nests.
2. Don’t place beach furniture or toys too close to nests as it can mislead and entrap them during the nesting/hatching process.
3. Avoid using flashlights, lanterns or flash photography on the beaches at night. Lights disturb nesting turtles and hatchlings, causing them to become disoriented as they make their way into the ocean. Adult females will avoid lighted beaches for nesting, therefore it’s important to turn off outdoor lights and shield indoor lights to prevent lights shining on the beaches.
4. Fill in holes and knock down sand castles to make the beach a safer nesting and hatching environment for sea turtles. Unfilled holes can entrap hatchlings as they make their trek into the sea.
5. When visiting the beach place trash in its proper place or take it with you. Throwing away foreign objects, trash and debris creates a safer habitat for sea turtles to nest and hatch in.
6. Avoid attracting unwanted pests/predators. Raccoons destroy thousands of sea turtle eggs each year and are one of the major causes of sea turtle mortality at Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park. You can help deter these animals by cleaning up any food or drink after a day at the beach.
7. Report any violations or inappropriate behavior that you witness to FWC. Adding their Wildlife Alert Number 1-888-404-3922 to our contact list will help keep you prepared in case you witness a dead, sick or stranded turtle as well as harassment or disturbance of nests.
8. Please share what you have learned! The average person isn’t familiar with sea turtles or the do’s and don’ts. Remember knowledge is power and information is key to keeping our turtles safe.

We cannot honor any requests for specific locations, personalized signs will be affixed to cages in the order received and as nests are laid. Due to the unpredictable nature of nesting turtles, there may be more sponsorships than available nests. In which case more than one sponsor may be added to a nest site. Signs will remain on nests for the approx 45-70 day gestation period.