

The Bermuda Turtle Project
offers
the 29th in-water course on
Biology and Conservation of Marine Turtles

August 9 - 21, 2026

This intensive, 2-week course provides an introduction to marine turtle biology and conservation. Participants will receive practical experience with in-water sea turtle research in Bermuda.



Course Leaders:

Dr. Daniel R. Evans • Jennifer Gray • Rick Herren • Barbara Outerbridge •
Dr. Gaëlle Roth



PROJECT MISSION

The Bermuda Turtle Project (BTP) is a joint science project of the Bermuda Zoological Society (BZS) and the Sea Turtle Conservancy (STC). Its mission is to study the juvenile marine turtles that inhabit the near-shore waters around Bermuda and promote their conservation.

PARTICIPANTS

Enrollment is limited to 10 students, ages 18 and older. Applications are accepted from all over the world, but priority will be given to candidates from regions connected to the Bermuda sea turtle population, or to those who are in the best position to implement the methods learned during the course. Students are encouraged to exchange information and discuss methods used in their home country and/or turtle conservation program.



COURSE

Students will assist with the in-water capture of turtles, the tagging and data collection, and learn about current sea turtle research techniques, including satellite telemetry. A hands-on overview of sea turtle anatomy will be taught during the necropsy session. Students will discuss daily the scientific papers included in the course reading list and they will be expected to lead class discussions. These discussions usually take place on board the research vessel Endurance, on route to/from the day's sampling site. Topics include life cycle, history, biology, physiology, feeding, migration, reproduction, genetics, threats and conservation management.



REQUIREMENTS

The course is physically demanding; fieldwork is scheduled Monday through Friday (8am – 5pm, with occasional evening classes), for both weeks with a necropsy session planned for the weekend in between. Students must be very strong swimmers, able to swim two or more miles a day (with fins and snorkel gear), and be comfortable free diving to depths up to 20 feet to retrieve turtles from the net. Each net deployment can last up to two hours, and there can be up to three sets per day. All participants will be expected to bring their own snorkeling gear.

Participants must fully commit to 2 weeks, be able to work in all weather conditions, be able to lift 50lbs, have excellent teamwork and communication skills.

There is no course tuition fee but applicants must cover transportation, travel permits, lodging and food. A limited number of scholarships are available.

All participants must have (overseas) insurance.

HOW TO APPLY TO THE 2026 BTP IN-WATER COURSE:

- Application forms are available [here](#) or via the [Bermuda Turtle Project website](#).
- Complete the google form and upload the required documents (cover letter, academic and character reference, snorkel/ free diving reference, description of previous experiences and future applications of what you will learn during the BTP course).
- [Contact us via email](#) if you have any questions regarding the course, or if you encounter difficulties with the application form (thebermudaturtleproject@gmail.com)
- The course application deadline is Monday April 13, 2026.