

BEACH STANDARDS

There are two main “seasons” where beach activities could impact protected species:

- Snowy Plover and Least Tern Nesting Season: February 15th – September 1st
- Sea Turtle Nesting Season: April 15th – October 31st

Special Events Applicants should be aware that events requested during the above months may be limited in an effort to protect wildlife. All known turtle nests are marked by SCCF staff or volunteers as soon as found. Markers are near the actual nest but not directly above it to minimize the opportunity for egg poaching. Shorebird nests, especially snowy plover nests, are difficult to find and indeed not all are found and marked. All located shorebird nests are marked off by SCCF staff with an enclosure of 20 square feet or more, but the birds also utilize adjacent areas for feeding and resting, sometimes traveling several miles away from the initial nest site to more productive foraging grounds. When juvenile snowy plover chicks hatch, they immediately leave the nest and feed along the shoreline. This means that the general area around the both marked shorebird and sea turtle nesting sites should also be areas of caution for human beach activities.

Beach events during Snowy Plover, Least Tern and Sea Turtle Nesting Season (February 15th through October 31st) shall not include:

- Any activity on the beach prior to sunrise or after sunset
- Lights on the beach or adjacent to the beach prior to sunrise or after sunset
- Any temporary structures other than folding chairs, portable podiums, light-weight arches, light-weight pillars and volleyball nets. All temporary structures must be removed from the beach prior to sunset. Digging of post holes for temporary structures is prohibited.
- Activities within 20 feet of a marked nest or nesting area

Beach events year-round shall **not** include the following:

- Tents (except for personal shade tents less than 10’ x 12’ (120 sq. ft) and sun umbrellas, which are permitted)
- Tables
- Temporary flooring
- Isle runners
- Raking of sand
- Staking of temporary structures
- Flowers (Artificial and Real)
- Balloons, including balloon releases
- Fireworks, including sparklers
- Paper Lanterns
- Releases of any non-native animals such as white doves
- Staging of equipment, furniture or temporary structures within the beach dune system or vegetation. Absolutely no trampling, trimming, or removal of vegetation by applicant or participants.

Open fires, with the exception of campfires used solely for recreational purposes, are not permitted. Campfires are permissible if and only if a permit is secured from the Sanibel Fire & Rescue District authorizing such campfire, and only if such campfire adheres to the restrictions for issuance of such permit and to Sanibel Code Chapter 34, Article IV, Open Burning. Please note such permits are currently being issued only outside the shorebird and sea turtle nesting seasons referenced above.

At no time shall a permitted beach event obstruct or restrict public access. Parking fees must be paid by participants, or appropriate parking permit displayed for parking at City Parks. Hourly parking fees at City Parks will not be waived. Right-of-way parking at, or outside of, City Parks is strictly prohibited.