

BEACH STANDARDS

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

- Snowy Plover and Least Tern Nesting Season: March 1 – July 31
- Sea Turtle Nesting Season: March 1 – October 31

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. 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 (March 1st 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 dusk.
- Activities within 20 feet of a marked nest or nesting area
- Staging of equipment, furniture or temporary structures within the beach dune system or vegetation. Absolutely no trampling of vegetation by applicant or participants.
- Releases of any non-native animals such as white doves

Beach events year –round shall not include the following:

- Tents (personal shade tents less than 10' x 10' and sun umbrella's are permitted)
- Tables
- Temporary flooring
- Isle runners
- Raking of sand
- Staking of temporary structures
- Flowers - Artificial and Real
- Balloons

Open fires are not permitted on Sanibel beaches. A campfire or other fire used solely for recreational purposes are permitted if a permit is secured from the Sanibel Fire Control District authorizing such campfire or other fire used solely for recreational purposes. Applicant must adhere to Sanibel Code Chapter 34, Article IV, Open Burning.

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 City Parks is strictly prohibited.