

Sandy Point Turtlewatch Program
Sandy Point National Wildlife Refuge, St. Croix USVI
US Fish and Wildlife Service
(340) 690-9452 or 773-4554
Guidelines for Adult Groups

Please meet at the entrance gate to Sandy Point National Wildlife Refuge (at the west end of the Melvin H. Evans Highway) by 8 pm. The group will gather here and then drive into the refuge. The gate is locked behind us and the group must stay together. Thus, it is not possible for individuals to leave early except in case of emergency. Leatherback turtles nest throughout the night and I ask visitors to be willing to stay until midnight to increase the group's chance of seeing one. After midnight, the group will vote and decide whether to stay longer or leave. If you have early morning commitments or need to leave at a specific time, this experience is not for you. Please be considerate of your fellow group members and join us only if you are prepared to stay.

The refuge road is a long, unimproved dirt road with many potholes. If you do not want to drive your car into the refuge, secure parking is available but you must then carpool with someone else into the refuge. The US Fish and Wildlife Service does not provide transportation at any time during the evening.

1. Groups are limited to 30 people and one group coordinator – *please, no exceptions.*
2. There is no smoking allowed in the refuge.
3. You are more than welcome to bring portable coolers and refreshments but please, no alcoholic beverages.

We spend time sitting on the beach waiting for a turtle and we recommend you bring a towel or blanket to make that a comfortable experience. Portable beach chairs are allowed but the simpler the better.

We must walk to the turtle through dry sand and other difficult areas. Please wear sturdy walking shoes (sneakers or other closed-toe shoe) and long pants. Bring a long-sleeved shirt or light jacket.

When there is no wind, biting insects are sometimes a nuisance so bring insect repellent just in case.

All photography and videography are prohibited. Even cameras which perform well in low-light situations are prohibited.

You may bring flashlights for use in the parking areas but you will not be permitted to use them on the beach.

Visit the following websites for more information about the Turtlewatch Program, Sandy Point NWR, and leatherback sea turtles. http://www.fws.gov/caribbean-ecoteam/SP_edu_web.htm, http://www.fws.gov/caribbeanecoteam/sandy_point_index.htm, <http://wimarcs.org/>



