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A Coastal Cleanup for beach-nesting birds and sea turtles





AMERICAN BIRD

Master

aturalist

Gulf Coast



# March II, 2025, 9am — 12pm

Bolivar Peninsula, Galveston Island, Follets Island



NestFest is an annual large-scale beach cleanup improving coastal habitats for nesting sea turtles and shorebirds along Follets Island, Galveston Island, and Bolivar Peninsula.



#### **Protecting Vulnerable Species**

By removing dangerous debris, we are improving and protecting critical nesting sites for sea turtles and shorebirds.

The Gulf Coast is home to many shorebird species, several of which are vulnerable or endangered. This includes species like Snowy Plovers (pictured), American Oystercatchers, and Wilson's Plovers. These birds are affected by trash in their habitat, particularly fishing line, which they get entangled in.

The Gulf of Mexico, likewise, is home to five sea turtle species, all of which are threatened or endangered. The most critically endangered, the Kemp's ridley, is the Texas state sea turtle and dominant nesting species on Texas beaches. These turtles not only get entangled on land when nesting, but throughout their life cycles in the ocean as well. They routinely drown in nets and consume plastics, resulting in their demise.



#### **Founding Partners**

NestFest was founded in 2023 by five partner organizations: SPLASh (Stopping Plastics and Litter Along Shorelines), Gulf Center For Sea Turtle Research, American Bird Conservancy, Texas Master Naturalists, and Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. All five of these organizations have years of experience in conserving wildlife, planning events, improving habitat, and bringing the community together for service projects.

#### Methods

Each cleanup location is carefully selected by our biologists based on its use as beach-nesting habitat for sea turtles and shorebirds. Hundreds of volunteers attend this event and remove thousands of pounds of trash while maintaining the integrity of each site.



#### **Our Impact**

NestFest has had an amazing impact on coastal Texas wildlife, habitat and communities! This event mitigates the negative impacts of trash pollution on sensitive species included decreasing the chances of wildlife entanglement and plastic ingestion. Furthermore, community members from all over the Houston-Galveston region take action to save wildlife and beautify our incredible coast. Explore the table below to see our impact by the numbers.

Year	Volunteers	Pounds of Trash Removed	Acres Improved
2023	300	2,368	303
2024	400	3,022	305

### Support Our Work

Sponsors are a vital part of this event, providing funds, community support and supplies. To make this event happen, we need gloves, grabbers, shirts, advertising, and more. If you are interested in supporting NestFest by becoming a sponsor, please take a look at our sponsorship levels on the next page, and let us know if you have any questions or would like to work with us.

# NestFest 2025 Sponsorship Levels

# **Monetary Donations**



#### Kemp's-Ridley Sea Turtle Sponsor \$2000 or more

- Custom branded NestFest Character Design for promotions
- (See image for example)  $\rightarrow$
- Name or logo on back of official T-shirt
- Recognition on the NestFest webpage
- Recognition on SPLASh Facebook, Enews, and Instagram
- Logo or name on a sign at four cleanup sites
- NestFest Thank You Package including T-shirts, stickers, and paper toys



#### American Oystercatcher Sponsor \$750 - \$1999

- Name or logo on back of official T-shirt
- Recognition on the NestFest webpage
- Logo or name on a sign at four cleanup sites



#### Loggerhead Sea Turtle Sponsor \$100 - \$749

- Recognition on the NestFest webpage
- Logo or name on a sign at one cleanup site

## In Kind Donations

In Kind donations may include event supplies, store products, and store discounts and deals for volunteers. Please reach out if you have any questions about acceptable in kind donations.



#### Black Skimmer Sponsor \$500 or more

• NestFest Thank You Package including T-shirts, stickers, and paper toys

\$100 - \$499

- Recognition on the NestFest webpage
- Logo or name on a sign at four cleanup sites



#### • Recognition on the NestFest webpage

Wilson's Plover Sponsor

• Logo or name on a sign at one cleanup site



# Ready to hop on board?

Email Celeste Silling at CSilling@gcbo.org to set up your sponsorship today!

