

THE NATURE'S VALLEY TRUST – MARINE DEBRIS

Number of Placements: 1

Location: Nature's Valley, Plettenberg Bay, South Africa

Website: <http://www.naturesvalleytrust.co.za>

Field/Subject Area:

Open to all York students who meet the eligibility criteria.

Position Description:

The marine debris project monitors what litter we are finding on our beaches. We GPS all the litter we find and note the users currently utilising the beach. This data is categorized and analysed to determine which user groups use the beach and contribute the most litter. This information is then used to educate the public on the threats of litter on our local beaches.

Fishermen bins have been placed at our beach entrances, to be used by both fishermen and the general public, for disposal of fishing waste. Once a month we collect the contents from these bins and document what we find.

A new component to the marine debris project is looking at microplastics found on our local beaches. This project involves sieving through the sand at different sights along the beach. We collect all the microplastics we find, measure them and place them into five different categories and then weigh them.

Our shorebird research focuses on monitoring the success rate of hatchlings for two species of bird (White-fronted plover and African black oystercatcher). During the breeding season we GPS nests we find and monitor them until they hatch. Once chicks have hatched we ring them and monitor them for fledgling success. Interventions are done on the beaches to educate the public on breeding birds on our beaches.

Specific tasks will include:

- Conducting beach surveys 3 days a week

- Co-designing and producing a conservation intervention program to help educate public on how to share our shores. This will entail resource development and social media campaigns.
- Assisting with the implementation of the conservation intervention program.

Complete all tasks assigned, which includes but is not limited to the responsibilities outlined above.

Expected work hours: 8 hours per day, 5 days per week

Qualifications/skills required:

- Basic field skills of observation, use of a GPS and good data capture and management skills.
- Resource development and social media skills.
- Good people skills.
- Ability to work well in a team and independently.
- An interest in marine conservation is beneficial, and perhaps some background browsing on the topic of marine litter.
- An ability to enjoy spending time on the beach, and to have fun!

Language requirements:

English

Highlights of Organization/background information:

The Nature's Valley Trust is a small community driven NPO working at the cutting edge of integrated conservation in South Africa. We operate in four main arenas, namely Conservation, Education, Community and Research. We take a holistic view of people and the environment, and use our four programs to help shape how people live, how they view the world around them, and how they as individuals can contribute to conserving the natural world. Nestled in the magnificent Garden Route, and situated in world renowned Nature's Valley, we are a passionate group of conservationists that aim to make a practical difference with the work we do.

Note:

Accommodation, work related transport, office space, internet and project material is provided for a monthly fee of R 6800.