Dear Sea Turtle Conservation and Biology Student,

We are providing this statement to make you aware of the demands of the course and what is expected of you physically and emotionally.

Throughout the course, you will spend up to several hours per day snorkeling in the water, and much time on boats, as part of field work and data collection. At no time will you be swimming alone, and each student will be paired up with at least one other student (“buddy”) with whom they are expected to remain with and keep track of while in the water. Additionally, the instructors and local host researchers/workers will be working with you in the water. It is important that you are comfortable in the water and are an experienced swimmer.

You will spend lots of time outside during the day, often in full sunshine. The effects of overexposure to sun include sunburn, rashes, cramps, sun-poisoning and sunstroke. To avoid these consequences, you are expected to take precautions, including the use of sun hats, sunglasses, rash guards, liquid or spray sunscreens, etc. The instructors and local hosts will remind you of the need for protection of the sun, and you are expected to follow their advice accordingly.

You will also spend lots of time on your feet, conducting beach patrols, including nighttime beach patrols. Several of the beaches are accessible only by hiking trails, which you will be required to use to get to and leave the beaches. The beaches you will visit and patrol all have soft fluffy sand that is a challenge to walk on. All patrols and hikes will be done in groups, and no student will be required to hike or patrol alone. It is important that you are comfortable with extended periods of walking and occasional hiking.

Generally, we will begin field work early in the morning, usually close to dawn. You must be prepared to wake up early and be ready to participate in field work.

We expect that you will attend every activity unless you are incapacitated due to illness that requires medical treatment. If you know that you are physically unable to full participate in this level of activity but would still like the experience, contact us immediately and we will have a conversation and see if we can accommodate you with alternate activities.

I have read and agree to the expectations of the course.

____________________________________  ____________________________
Name                                      Date

Signature ___________________________________________________________