

# DESTIN FORT WALTON BEACH FLORIDA

## Non-Profit CSR Opportunities

Non-profit CSR options in Destin-Fort Walton Beach are plentiful. Below is a list of local organizations that will work with you and your team on setting up these opportunities for your group.

### **Emerald Coast Science Center**

Step outside the box and experience science firsthand in our interactive museum including a STEM Makerspace, new exhibits, animal encounters, and more! Our center has promoted STEM education and public outreach in Okaloosa County and beyond for over 30 years and is committed to serving Northwest Florida, its residents, and its visitors through excellent STEM programming and exhibits. For more information, please visit [ecscience.org](http://ecscience.org).

### **Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program**

In June, 2017, the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Coalition was formed by execution of an intergovernmental agreement. This body was established to develop and direct a community-based, non-regulatory estuary program for the comprehensive and collaborative protection, management, and restoration of the Choctawhatchee Bay and its watershed. For more information, please visit [myokaloosa.com/cbec](http://myokaloosa.com/cbec).

### **Emerald Coast Reef Association**

In March 2003, Jason Smith created a website and forum called the "Emerald Coast Reef Association (ECRA)". By June 2003, a small group of members expressed an interest in deploying and researching artificial reefs. Jason Smith and Gary Parsons spearheaded the effort to turn ECRA into a "Non-Profit" organization which could obtain grants and donations in order to perform reef research. In January 2004, ECRA received its designation as a 501 (c) (3) "Non-Profit" organization, and officially became the "Emerald Coast Reef Association Inc."

Since 2004, ECRA has deployed well over 100 Tons of reef material, including a 35 ft Tug (Monica Lee) and an 80 ft Barge (AJ's Carrie Ricks). ECRA is active in the pursuit of reef permits in Florida State waters and the control of Lionfish (an invasive species). For more information, please visit [ecreef.org](http://ecreef.org).

### **Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance**

Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance is a non-profit organization responsible for sustaining healthy local waterways through monitoring, education, restoration, and research. For more information, please visit [basinalliance.org](http://basinalliance.org).



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### Navarre Beach Science Station

In late 2008, marine science students held a town hall meeting and led several presentations for the Santa Rosa County Board of Commissioners and the SRC School Board about converting an empty, unoccupied ranger station into an environmental center. After overwhelming positive response from the community, students succeeded in obtaining the site in March 2009. Over 2,000 community service hours later the students, under faculty supervision had created what is now the Navarre Beach Marine Science Station. Since its official opening in August 2009, the Station has been host to well over 4,000 students and community members for programs concerning the local marine environments. The programs provide hands-on, feet-wet curriculum that educates and challenges participants from ages 3-33+ on how to be stewards of our marine meaningful outdoor experiences for all students. For more information, please visit [navarrebeachmarinesciencestation.com](http://navarrebeachmarinesciencestation.com).

### Emerald Coast Wildlife Rescue

For more than twenty years, the Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge's daily operational goal has been the rehabilitation and release of orphaned and injured wildlife indigenous to Northwest Florida. The Refuge provides wildlife rescue services and environmental outreach to five counties in Northwest Florida. The ECWR works with local governments, private businesses, and individuals to protect habitats and the wildlife that live there.

As a leader in conservation education for the Emerald Coast we offer educational programs for law enforcement and interested members of the community. The Refuge also partners with public and private schools to educate our youth on the importance of conserving our native species.

As we head into the future, the Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge will continue to pursue the highest level of medical care, environmental education, and conservation efforts. Join us today as we take responsibility for the preservation of our precious lands and wildlife. Help us create a new tomorrow where all life is respected. For more information, please visit [emeraldcoastwildliferefuge.org](http://emeraldcoastwildliferefuge.org).