

### Visitors Bureau Releases First Three Episodes of "The Voluntourism Experience" Video Series

As the Visitors Bureau continues its work to connect visitors with the amazing nonprofits in the community, you're invited to explore the first three episodes of "[The Voluntourism Experience](#)." Join host Caleb Olewabi as he spends time with several local organizations and shares how visitors can turn a great vacation into a life-changing experience. Additional videos will be added on a bi-weekly basis through July.



[Episode 1: Jockey's Ridge State Park](#)



[Episode 2: Elizabethan Gardens](#)



[Episode 3: Outer Banks SPCA](#)

### OBVB Adopts National Park Service Beach

As part of a commitment to destination stewardship, the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau is participating in the [National Park Service Adopt-a-Beach Program](#). The Bureau has adopted Cape Hatteras National Seashore Beach Access Ramp 1, covering the one-mile stretch immediately south of the homes in South Nags Head down to Ramp 2 at Coquina Beach. The first 'Promise for the Park' volunteer beach cleanup took place on Tuesday, June 3, with several more planned for 2025.



### Outer Banks Tops BBC's List of the Best U.S. Destinations to Travel to in 2025 for an Enriching Family Trip; Voluntourism and The Outer Banks Promise Spotlited

[BBC - May 26, 2025](#)

#1 - Outer Banks, North Carolina

"There are many things that make this string of barrier islands, stretching 200 miles off the North Carolina coast up to Virginia, so special. For one, the opportunity to go kayaking among great blue herons and wild horses – something my family does off the coast of Beaufort, NC, every summer. Another idea? Give back to the OBX (that's Outer Banks to locals). The islands are the first US destination to create a tourism-specific [volunteering programme](#) that directly connects the traveller with 90-plus non-profit organisations for ways to live up to the [Outer Banks Promise](#), a pledge by both visitors and residents to protect and preserve the ecosystem. Consider joining a beach cleanup between playing in the waves."



**The Sitting Duck Podcast**

**Stewards of the Shore: Tourism With Purpose**

Kay Nickens, Town of Duck Public Information Officer, recently sat down with the OBVB’s Lee Nettles and Jeff Schwartzberg in the latest installment of [The Sitting Duck Podcast](#). The discussion covered several topics including responsible tourism, updates on the Outer Banks Long-Range Tourism Management Plan (LRTMP) and The Outer Banks Promise destination pledge, the latest with the Bureau’s voluntourism initiative and ways visitors and residents can help preserve the Outer Banks for generations to come.



**The Outer Banks LRTMP the Focus of CSI’s June “Science on the Sound” Lecture Series**

The Coastal Studies Institute will host its June 2025 installment of the [“Science on the Sound” Lecture Series](#) on the ECU Outer Banks Campus on Thursday, June 19 at 6:00pm. This monthly, in-person lecture series brings perspectives from all over the state and highlights coastal topics in northeastern North Carolina. This month, Lee

Nettles and Jeff Schwartzberg from Bureau will present **“Finding Balance: The Outer Banks Long-Range Tourism Management Plan.”** The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. The program will also be [live streamed](#) for those who cannot make it in person.



**Outer Banks Promise Update**

We thank the following local businesses who collectively made [The Outer Banks Promise](#) in recent weeks, as well as the nearly 40 organizations who have made The Promise in the first year since it launched last June!

- Duck Surf Rescue
- Kill Devil Hills Ocean Rescue
- Kitty Hawk Ocean Rescue
- NC Aquarium on Roanoke Isl.
- Ramada Plaza Oceanfront
- Secotan Alliance
- VisitOBX.com Properties:

- Blue Heron Motel
- Colonial Inn
- Hatteras Island Inn
- Heart of Manteo Motor Lodge
- Mariner Inn and Suites
- Outer Banks Motor Lodge
- Scarborough Inn
- Seahorse Inn and Cottages



## **Q2 2025 Community, Stakeholder, Partner / Outreach & Engagement**

April 2 – Manteo High School Carer Fair (Participating Partner)  
April 3 – 3rd Annual Outer Banks Non-Profit Mission Mixer (Co-Host)  
April 4 – Outer Banks Relief Foundation 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event (Attendee)  
April 6-8 – Visit NC Tourism Conference – Hickory, NC (Attendee)  
June 9 – DCTB Special Committee (LRTMP) Meeting  
April 10 – George Washington University Focus Group: Destination Stewardship & Mgmt (Participant)  
April 11 – Love the Beach, Respect the Ocean Meeting (Attendee)  
April 11 – Dare County America 250 Committee Meeting (Attendee)  
April 17 – Science on the Sound – The Cigarette Surfboard Film Screening (Co-Host)  
April 24 – Destination Stewardship Bi-Monthly Meeting (Attendee)  
April 29 – Outer Banks Workforce Network Meeting – Housing (Attendee)

May 1 – Coastal Environmental Educators Network Meeting (Attendee)  
May 1 – Community Care Clinic 20th Anniversary Open House (Attendee)  
May 2 – Outdoor NC – Trail Town Stewardship Program Focus Group (Participating Partner)  
May 9 – Children & Youth Partnership 16th Annual KidsFest (Participating Partner)  
May 12 – Surfrider Foundation Outer Banks Meeting (Attendee)  
May 17 – Coastal Studies Institute Open House (Participating Partner)  
May 19 – Dare Community Housing Task Force Strategy Meeting (Participant)  
May 20 – Kitty Hawk Ocean Rescue Annual Training / Outer Banks Promise (Presenter)  
May 21 – Duck Surf Rescue Annual Training / Outer Banks Promise (Presenter)  
May 23 – Kill Devil Hills Ocean Rescue Annual Training / Outer Banks Promise (Presenter)  
May 29 – Ramada Plaza Oceanfront / Outer Banks Promise (Presenter)  
May 30 – Secotan Alliance – In the Spirit of Wingina 2 Event (Presenter/Attendee)

June 3 – Nonprofit Partner Meeting – Island Farm – Outer Banks Conservationists (Attendee)  
June 3 – ‘Promise for the Park’ Beach Cleanup / Cape Hatteras National Seashore Ramp 1 (Host)  
June 5 – Dare County America 250 Marketing/Outreach Subcommittee Meeting (Attendee)  
June 9-13 – Outer Banks Week on the Hampton Roads Show  
June 11 – DCTB Special Committee (LRTMP) Meeting  
June 17 – Dare Community Housing Task Force Meeting (Attendee)  
June 18 – Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce Vibe@5 at The Sanderling Resort (Attendee)  
June 19 – CSI Science on the Sound Lecture Series: Outer Banks LRTMP (Presenter)  
June 20 – Destination Stewardship Bi-Monthly Meeting (Attendee)  
June 23 – Nonprofit Partner Meeting – Outer Banks Forever (Attendee)  
June 26 – Coastal Environmental Educators Network Meeting (Attendee)

July (TBD) - ‘Promise for the Park’ Beach Cleanup / Cape Hatteras National Seashore Ramp 1 (Host)  
July 10 – Barrier Island Station Resort (Duck, NC) Guest Event Series (Presenter)  
July 11 – Dare County America 250 Committee Meeting (Attendee)