



OBVB Announces Plans for Inaugural Volunteer Week

The Outer Banks Visitors Bureau is excited to announce the launch of the inaugural [Volunteer Week](#), taking place **October 11-18, 2025**. This initiative expands the impact and reach of the Bureau's existing [Voluntourism](#) program and invites visitors to connect more deeply with the community by volunteering with local organizations on a variety of projects and events. Volunteer Week aims to support local partners, promote off-season visitation to Dare County and highlight the ongoing work that goes into caring for and sustaining the Outer Banks. Residents and property owners are also encouraged to get involved. Volunteer opportunities include:

[Duck Jazz Festival](#) - October 11-12

[Island Farm Pumpkin Patch](#) - October 11; October 18

['Keep it Clean, Kitty Hawk' Trash Cleanup](#) - October 11

[Hatteras Island Cancer Foundation Donna Peele Memorial 5K](#) – October 11

[Island Farm 'Open Hours' Volunteer Day](#) - October 13

[Garden Gathering: Outer Banks Arboretum and Teaching Garden Projects](#) – October 15

[Bluegrass Island Festival](#) - October 16-18

[Town of Nags Head Community Cleanup](#) - October 17

[Another Round 25K at JRSP](#) – October 18



OBVB to Partner with Galaxy Digital to Create 'Volunteer OBX' Portal for NPOs and Community Organizations

The Visitors Bureau is also excited to share that it has recently partnered with [Galaxy Digital](#), an Asheville, NC-based technology company, whose [Get Connected](#) product helps thousands of organizations and communities across the United States recruit, engage and retain volunteers. **Originally viewed as a tool to present OBVB voluntourism opportunities in a more efficient way, the wider power and community impact of the Get Connected platform became increasingly apparent. The Volunteer OBX portal has the potential to serve as a trusted community volunteer hub that will provide local Dare County organizations with FREE tools to better schedule, manage and communicate with volunteers.**

Key functionality includes volunteer scheduling, hours tracking and other reporting, volunteer check-in, email and text messaging capabilities to enhance communication with volunteers and the ability to include digital waivers. Get Connected also makes it simple for prospective volunteers to quickly search, find and select the opportunities they're passionate about. Complete details will be released soon on how local organizations can create a profile, start loading volunteer opportunities and begin leveraging the power of the *Volunteer OBX* portal.

THE NONPROFIT MESSAGING LAB
 Inspire Giving to Strengthen Community Across the Outer Banks
 A WORKSHOP FOR ALL OUTER BANKS NONPROFIT PROFESSIONALS, BOARD MEMBERS AND FUNDRAISERS
 This is a free, all-day workshop; breakfast and lunch provided.
 College of the Albemarle
 205 Highway 64 S.
 Manteo, NC 27954



SCAN OR CLICK TO REGISTER

3RD ANNUAL NONPROFIT KNOWLEDGE SERIES

PRESENTED BY THE OUTER BANKS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND THE OUTER BANKS VISITORS BUREAU

Sep 26 2025

9:00 am to 3:00 pm



3rd Annual NPO Knowledge Series Workshop Set for September 26 at COA Dare Campus

Nonprofit professionals, board members and fundraisers are invited to attend the [3rd Annual Nonprofit Knowledge Series Workshop](#) on **Friday, September 26 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM** at College of the Albemarle's Dare campus in Manteo. This **FREE workshop** is co-presented by the Outer

Banks Community Foundation and the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau. **The Nonprofit Messaging Lab** is designed to help attendees craft compelling, donor centered messages and build practical skills for today's digital landscape. Participants will explore how to connect mission to action through clarity, values and message mapping and will be empowered to create real content across email, social and video, with a focus on storytelling techniques and quick-win strategies. Attendees will also engage in discussions around community voice and common donor misconceptions. The session will be led by Kelly Walberg, VP of Marketing and Communications at the Community Foundation in Middle Tennessee.

DESTINATION FORWARD:
 ADVANCING STEWARDSHIP IN U.S. TOURISM PLANNING
 A National Study of How Destination Stewardship Plans Foster Sustainable Tourism

2025 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

International Institute of Tourism Studies
 THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

In collaboration with
 CoraggioGroup.com/DestinationForward
 its.business.gwu.edu/destination-forward

OBVB Participates in National Study on Destination Stewardship

The Outer Banks Visitors Bureau was one of 35 U.S. destinations to participate in the largest national study of its kind—[Destination Forward](#)—examining how domestic destination stewardship and management plans align with key sustainability themes and influence tourism policy and practice. The industry publication was published on June 25 by the George Washington University International Institute of Tourism Studies in collaboration with the Coraggio Group. The study incorporated direct input from 31 destination organization leaders to better understand their motivations, experiences and lessons learned and includes a gallery of good practices that highlight exemplary initiatives from the plans that demonstrate stewardship principles in action. The creation of the [DCTB Special Committee for the LRTMP](#) and the development of [The Outer Banks Promise](#) destination pledge was spotlighted.



Key Insights from the Report

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| 1. Community Well-being is Central to Stewardship Planning | 2. Destination Organizations Are Evolving Through Stewardship Planning | 3. Funding, Authority and Capacity Are Core Constraints |
| 4. Strategic Intent Often Outpaces Tactical Follow-Through | 5. Social and Economic Equity: Still More Talk Than Action | 6. Environmental Goals Are Common, Clear Actions Are Not |

Outer Banks Featured in 2025-26 North Carolina Trail Town Guide

For the second consecutive year, the Outer Banks is featured in the [Official North Carolina Trail Town Guide](#), with several local trails spotlighted, including Buxton Woods Coastal Reserve, the Freedom Trail at Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, the NC Oyster Trail, Mountains-to-Sea Trail (Segment 18), Nags Head Woods Preserve, Town of Duck Boardwalk and Windgrass Circle Paddle Trail at Kitty Hawk Bay. The guide, created by our partners at [Outdoor NC](#), celebrates towns that are dedicated to preserving the natural beauty and cultural heritage of their destination while fostering a strong sense of place. The 23 North Carolina destinations featured in this guide are championing destination stewardship, accessible outdoors and responsible recreation to sustain our towns and trails across the state for future generations.



Trail Towns: Manteo, Nags Head, Kill Devil Hills, Duck, Hatteras Village

North Carolina's Outer Banks are steeped in history, untamed beauty and distinctive personality. This 100-mile stretch of remote barrier islands was home to America's first colony, the Wright Brothers' first flight, the first national seashore in the United States and the birthplace of the US Lifesaving Service (forerunner to the US Coast Guard). It is also the site of the tallest brick lighthouse in the country, the nation's longest-running outdoor symphonic drama, three National Park Service sites, the tallest living sand dune on the East Coast and two national wildlife preserves. With so much to explore - from Hatteras Island to Manteo to the northern beach communities of Nags Head, Kill Devils Hills, Kitty Hawk, Southern Shores and Duck - your nearest trail is never far away. Honoring and preserving this amazing natural and cultural wonder is the responsibility of everyone who discovers it - whether it be by land, air or water.

EXPLORE

DESTINATION TRIP TIPS

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL INFO

ACCESSIBLE OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

The Outer Banks boasts a variety of trail experiences, catering to any outdoor enthusiast or history and culture seeker. From serene coastal paths to winding woodland trails immersed in maritime forests, the diversity of landscapes is striking. Hikers can explore historic routes like the Freedom Trail at Fort Raleigh National Historic Site or immerse themselves in the wonders of Jockey's Ridge State Park. Birdwatchers can revel in the diverse avian life along the North Pond Trail at Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, while cyclists can traverse the multi-use paths in several towns offering scenic views of marshes and soundside vistas.

TRAILS

Find more trail information here.

TRAIL NAME	TRAIL TOWN	ACTIVITIES
Buxton Woods Coastal Reserve	Buxton, Frisco	 
Freedom Trail - Fort Raleigh National Historic Site	Manteo	
NC Oyster Trail	Avon, Hatteras, Nags Head	
Mountains-to-Sea Trail (Segment 18)	Hatteras, Nags Head	 
Nags Head Woods Preserve	Kill Devil Hills, Nags Head	  
Town of Duck Boardwalk	Duck	  
Windgrass Circle - Kitty Hawk Bay	Kitty Hawk	



Q3 2025 Community, Stakeholder, Partner / Outreach & Engagement

- August 1 – Dare Arts Exhibit Opening / In Good Company: *Inspirations from the Outer Edge* (Co-Host)
- August 4 – Outdoor NC Guardian Partner Meeting (Attendee)
- August 5 – Town of Nags Head Meeting / Dark Sky, Bright Stars w/ Chris Trembley (Attendee)
- August 6 – Dare County A250 Marketing & Outreach Subcommittee Meeting (Attendee)
- August 7 – Dare County A250 Steering Committee Meeting (Attendee)
- August 14 – Access to Healthcare Task Force Meeting (Attendee)
- August 18 – Dare Community Housing Task Force Nonprofit Subcommittee Meeting (Attendee)
- August 26 – Coastal Environmental Educators Network Meeting (Attendee)
- August 26 – Travel Planner FAM Event - Duck, NC (Co-Host)
- September (TBD) - 'Promise for the Park' Beach Cleanup / Cape Hatteras National Seashore Ramp 1 (Host)
- September 4 – Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce Business Update & Small Business Awards (Attendee)
- September 10 – Dare County Tourism Board Special Committee Meeting – LRTMP
- September 12 – Dare County A250 Committee Meeting (Attendee)
- September 14-18 – Outdoor Economy Conference in Cherokee, NC (Attendee)
- September 25 – NC Aquarium - Oyster Exhibit Opening Reception (Attendee)
- September 26 – 3rd Annual Outer Banks Nonprofit Knowledge Series Workshop (Co-Host)