

Dear CabanUp,

Thank you again for supporting Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch (AMITW) through our Adopt a-Nest program. Through your generosity we can educate and raise community awareness that helps protect sea turtles that nest on our local beaches.

AMITW sends the certificates to the one who adopts the nest so we don't risk ruining surprises by sending it to the recipient, should they be different. You may forward this or print the certificate and present it the recipient at your convenience.

Just like the proverbial turtle this is a slow process, no instant gratification. Adoption plaques will be assigned to a nest and go on the beach starting in early July 2022, in the order received. The plaque will be on the nest for the 45 to 70-day gestation period. When the nest hatches and the data is collected your adoption package will be mailed out within 2 to 4 weeks. Storm Protocol: Anna Maria Island is subject to tropical weather patterns. Hurricane season (June 1 – Nov 30) coincides with the Sea Turtle nesting season. History has shown us that we can expect one or more tropical weather events while the adopt-a-nest plaques are on the beach. Our first concern off course is the safety of our Volunteer Staff.

Please remember that turtles have successfully nested in the tropics for thousands of years. Nests may take on water and still hatch. Marked stakes may wash away but the nests may remain viable. We do not relocate sea turtle nests to avoid natural weather events. In the event of incoming hazardous weather that may disrupt adopted nests on the beach, here is our protocol. Adopt-a-nest signs will be removed from the beaches and will be stored safely in our offices. If your nest is still marked on the beach when the storm passes, we will continue to monitor the nest and you will receive all its information with your plaque and packet of goodies after the nest hatches. If the stakes marking your nest washes out, we will send your plaque and adoption package along with what info we have for it. Remember your adoption is symbolic and the funds go to help us in our work. If you would like to make a change to the certificate just let us know and we will get it out to you. Please feel free to contact us anytime with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

The AMITW Adoption Team