

BEACH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

GENERAL INTRODUCTION AND TRAINING MANUAL

Revised May 2004

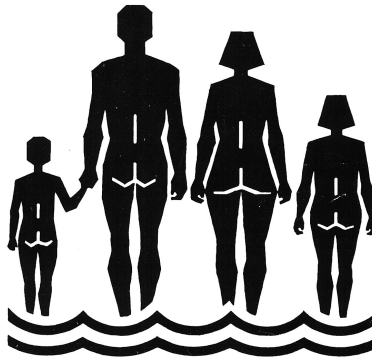
Prepared by

South Florida Free Beaches

Florida Naturist Association

www.sffb.com

Creators & Mentors of Miami's Haulover Clothing-Optional Beach



B.E.A.C.H.E.S. FOUNDATION

***Beach Education Advocates for Culture, Health, Environment & Safety
Foundation Institute, Inc.***

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Beach Ambassador Program

NATURISTS believe that nude recreation is a legitimate and traditional activity, which can be pursued, in the proper setting and context, without inconvenience or affront to those who do not choose this option for themselves. We encourage tolerance, family values, and respect for others, and oppose lewd and offensive conduct in all circumstances. We believe that nudity is a particularly natural choice for the enjoyment of activities such as swimming and sunbathing, which are often pursued in our society today with minimal and in some cases deliberately suggestive attire. We believe that eliminating this often provocative emphasis on sexuality by slight and selective concealment can create an altogether more relaxed and wholesome atmosphere. To the Naturist, nudity is neither an act of exhibitionism, nor an invitation to promiscuous sexual activity, but an attempt to promote an atmosphere of mutual acceptance and respect for each other as fellow human beings and as children of nature.

CLOTHING-OPTIONAL BEACHES are clearly signed areas, either formally or traditionally sanctioned, where nude swimming and sunbathing are permitted. In an American context, they are nothing other than a way to preserve “the old swimming hole” of an earlier time, where skinny-dipping was an innocent and joyful activity. In a world context, Naturist beaches are common in many European countries, and an increasing number of tourists are making the availability of such beaches a prime factor in their vacation destination decisions. The benign nature of clothing-optional beaches, and their beneficial impact on the tourist industry, is evident from the untroubled presence of many such sites in Europe, and has also been demonstrated by the success of Miami’s clothing-optional Haulover beach, which has been in existence since July 1991, and now boasts more than a million visitors per year. It is widely recognized as one of the safest and cleanest beaches in the area, thanks to the continued cooperation of the Haulover Beach Park staff, the Miami-Dade Parks and Recreation Department, Lifeguards and Police, the Sunny Isles Police, and South Florida Free Beaches/Florida Naturist Association.

Given that recent national surveys have clearly indicated that a significant majority of Americans do not object to the practice of nude recreation at designated sites, and, given that public lands have already been reserved for the pursuit of golf, tennis, hunting, boating and other specialized recreational activities pursued by minority user groups, we find it not inappropriate or unreasonable that a portion of the land held in trust for all citizens by local, state and federal governments, be sanctioned for clothing-optional use by those who have made this their freely elected recreational choice. And, while we believe that mere nudity, in and of itself, need not be offensive or provocative, since we recognize that incidents of discourteous and improper behavior occur at all public beaches, we are prepared to uphold and insure the highest standards of behavior at sanctioned clothing-optional sites. Aside from the simple fact that nudity is allowed at a clothing-optional beach, no activities that would generally be deemed inappropriate in any other comparable public place are to be encouraged, permitted, or tolerated.

Beach Ambassador Program

BEACH AMBASSADORS are Naturist volunteers, selected by the Naturist organization that has assumed the care and mentorship of a particular clothing-optional beach. As a Beach Ambassador acts as a representative of the Naturist organization involved, care should be taken that only those who are committed to working within the established and recognized standards of Naturist philosophy, behavior and etiquette are selected. The Naturist group should also be prepared to revoke the ambassador status of those who intentionally violate its standards, or otherwise show their unsuitability after they have been selected.

Beach Ambassadors should have a distinctive form of identification. Naturally (in every sense of the word), the best choice is distinctive headgear with a design, color scheme, legend (e.g.: "Haulover Beach Ambassadors") and/or logo which is solely reserved for the use of Beach Ambassadors, and not offered for sale or randomly distributed. Clear recognition of the presence of Beach Ambassadors on the beach can in itself go a long way toward maintaining a friendly family atmosphere at the beach.

The **Mission** of a **Beach Ambassador** at a clothing-optional beach is...

- To present naturism as a positive, mainstream, non-sexual and life-enhancing social and recreational activity.
- To assist visitors who are new to clothing-optional activities, both by making them at ease and comfortable with their surroundings, and by explaining the accepted standards of Naturist etiquette and courtesy.
- To actively watch for those individuals who, whether through ignorance or intent, violate the accepted standards of Naturist behavior.
- To take prudent, restrained and legally sanctioned action to counter those who are violating the accepted standards of behavior or the privacy of others.
- To respect the prerogatives of, and to assist, and not hinder, legally sanctioned authorities such as police officers, lifeguards, and other public service officers.
- To help preserve and maintain the environmental quality, appearance and safety of the beach, and to encourage others to do the same.
- To provide information on naturism and Naturist activities and destinations to interested individuals.
- To present him or herself as an exemplary Naturist citizen, by fully abiding by all the standards of Naturist behavior, etiquette and courtesy, and further by not violating any laws, rules, or regulations in force at a particular beach.

Nudity in Florida Law

Florida Statute 800.03 states: "It is unlawful to expose or exhibit one's sexual organs in public or in the private premises of another, or so near thereto as to be seen from such private premises, in a vulgar or indecent manner, or to be naked in public except in any place provided or set apart for that purpose. Violation of this section is a misdemeanor in the first degree..."

The Florida Supreme Court has ruled that under this law *"proof of mere nudity is not sufficient to sustain a conviction"*. Among the elements required for conviction are that the defendant *"intended the exposure to be in a vulgar, indecent, lewd or lascivious manner"*, and that the act really *"was in a vulgar, indecent, lewd or lascivious manner"*. The Court further defines *"vulgar"*, *"indecent"*, *"lewd"* and *"lascivious"* to mean the same thing: *"They mean an unlawful indulgence in lust, or a wicked, lustful, unchaste, licentious or sensual intent on the part of the person doing the act..."* (Florida Supreme Court, Standard Jury Instructions 97-1: No. 89, 771, July 10, 1997) One should consult with a legal advisor, but a jury trial should result in a not guilty verdict under this law, absent clearly vulgar, indecent, lewd or lascivious behavior. (One might then wish to consider a civil suit against the police department and arresting officer for unlawful arrest.)

FS 877.03 states: *"Whoever commits such acts as are of a nature to corrupt the public moral, or outrage the sense of public decency, or affect the peace and quiet of persons who may witness them, or engages in brawling or fighting, or engages in such conduct as to constitute a breach of the peace or disorderly conduct, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree..."* This broadly worded statute is a lesser offense included within 800.03, and is sometimes offered in plea bargains for a plea of *nolo contendere* (which one should note is fully equivalent to a guilty plea).

Miami-Dade County itself has no ordinances specifically dealing with public nudity. Other jurisdictions may differ in this regard.

Public Sexual Activity in Florida Law

FS 800.03, cited above, makes public sexual activity a first-degree misdemeanor, which may result in a sentence of up to one year's imprisonment upon conviction.

FS 800.04, "Lewd or lascivious offenses committed upon or in the presence of persons less than 16 years of age" addresses lewd or lascivious battery, lewd or lascivious molestation, lewd or lascivious conduct, or lewd or lascivious exhibition involving minors. Depending upon the ages of the perpetrator and of the victim, crimes under this section are first, second, or third-degree felonies, punishable by imprisonment of up to thirty years. For example, lewd exhibition (intercourse,

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masturbation, etc.) by an adult in the presence of a minor less than 16 years of age would be a second-degree felony, punishable by imprisonment of up to fifteen years.

Working with Legal Authorities

It is not our intent that Beach Ambassadors should usurp or interfere with the prerogatives of the police, lifeguards, or other public service officers. Our task is to perform as a citizen's watch, much in the manner that a volunteer neighborhood crime patrol assists the police in any community. It is recommended that Beach Ambassadors develop a cooperative relationship with the police and lifeguards, and arrange meetings to define the role of the Beach Ambassadors. Beach Ambassadors should carry, or have readily available, mobile phones with which to summon the police as needed.

Working with Beach Visitors

Beach Ambassadors must be diplomats. While we certainly want to watch for those few individuals who may spoil the beach experience for others, neither do we want to do anything to ruin the experience for the decent and law-abiding majority. Beach Ambassadors should work to ensure the trust and respect of beach visitors by being helpful when needed, and non-intrusive at other times. While watching for potential law-breakers is an important component of a Beach Ambassador's duties, in practice far more time will be spent on providing information and assisting beach users.

Ambassadors should actively seek the cooperation of all beach goers in bringing any questionable behavior they may witness to the attention of the Beach Ambassadors, the lifeguards or the police, rather than simply tolerating any activity they find offensive. Regular beach users must be made to realize that they must assume some share with us in the task of maintaining a safe and friendly environment at the beach, if only by voicing their objection to those who violate the accepted standards of behavior.

Naturist Tourist Information Bureau

Our experience at Haulover is that a Naturist beach will attract a large number of visitors and tourists, both domestic and international. The Beach Ambassadors therefore often function as a "Naturist tourist bureau". One of the most frequently asked questions is "Where can I find other Naturist beaches and resorts?" It is helpful if the Beach Ambassadors have some familiarity with nearby Naturist resorts, and with public sites traditionally or formally sanctioned for Naturist use. Naturists groups may also find it useful to have copies of publications such as

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The Naturist Society's "World Guide to Nude Beaches and Resorts" and "Nude and Natural" magazine on hand for reference or for sale. Many other useful publications are available from AANR and from local Naturist groups. Visitors also seek information on local attractions, entertainment, dining, and Naturist friendly hotels. The local Naturist organization may wish to seek sponsorships from establishments that aim to attract visiting Naturist tourists as patrons, and offer space for their advertisements in its publications and newsletters.

Health and Safety Issues

South Florida Free Beaches, in conjunction with its regular beach social events, provides for health-related services such as blood drives and skin cancer screenings by physicians. Our Beach Ambassadors provide advance notice of such events to insure as full participation as possible. In addition, while lifeguards and police have the primary responsibility for protecting the safety of beach users, Beach Ambassadors function to assist them by patrolling the beach and watching for people in distress, either on the beach or in the water, and alerting the authorities whenever they are not the first ones aware of a dangerous situation, or summoning them by phone, at those times when they are not present. South Florida Free Beaches has also printed water safety information cards that are available to visitors free of charge at our information booth on the beach. Other Naturist groups should consider providing similar health and safety services for beach users at their beaches.

Naturist groups mentoring beaches with no regular lifeguard service might consider providing CPR and water safety training for their Beach Ambassadors. At the very least, they should have all relevant emergency phone numbers to summon the proper help when needed.

Environmental Issues

Naturists are concerned that beach areas are preserved in as pristine a condition as possible, and Beach Ambassadors should watch for individuals whose actions are detrimental to the beach environment.

- Beach Ambassadors should advise visitors not to intrude into environmentally sensitive areas such as dunes, and not to pick or otherwise damage dune flora.
- Beach Ambassadors should seek to prevent visitors from leaving litter at the beach. Glass containers are a particular hazard and should not be allowed on the beach at all. Other trash should be deposited in trash bins at the beach, or taken off the beach for disposal. Birds, fish and sea turtles can often be harmed if they ingest rubbish, and can become

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- hopelessly entangled in items such as plastic six-pack rings or similar items.
- Cigarette filters and other small items are particularly problematic items, as they are not easily removed from the beach. Smokers should be encouraged to dispose of their cigarette butts properly, and not leave them in the ocean or on the sand.

NATURIST BEACH ETIQUETTE STATEMENT

As distributed by SFFB/FNA:

Respect our non-Naturist neighbors. A swimsuit or appropriate clothing must be worn outside of posted clothing-optional areas.

Respect others' privacy. Sit at a comfortable distance from others. Respect your neighbor's space. Looking is normal, but staring is rude and unacceptable behavior. Lewd or derogatory comments are immature and unwelcome. Keep music volume low.

No sexual activity is allowed. Our community of responsible Naturist beach users has zero tolerance for lewd behavior. We actively support the arrest and prosecution of all sexual offenders.

Photos: Ask first! Practice common courtesy, and ask the consent of your subjects before taking any photos. Minors should never be photographed without the express consent of parents. Commercial photography requires a permit and a signed release from all subjects. All photography must be without lewd content.

Keep it clean & pristine. Don't litter. Keep the beach clean - pick up stray litter you find. Glass containers are NOT allowed on the beach. Smokers, cigarette butts do NOT belong in the sea or on the sand, dispose of them properly. Stay out of the dunes and other environmentally sensitive areas.

Do your part as a good citizen to keep the beach safe and secure for all. Don't tolerate inappropriate behavior, but report it to the Beach Ambassadors, the Lifeguards, or the Police at once.

PATROLLING THE BEACH

Non-discrimination Statement: In evaluating all behaviors, Beach Ambassadors should be fair and impartial, and neither practice, nor allow, any discrimination based on considerations such as disability, gender, race, ethnicity, creed, or sexual orientation.

Specific Activities and Behaviors And *Recommended Beach Ambassador Intervention*

Class 1:

Acceptable Behavior: No action required. Examples of special application to a naturist beach:

1. Non-sexual displays of affection, as would be acceptable in any other public place.
2. Photography with consenting and informed subjects.
3. Application of sunscreen to one's own or another's body.

Class 2:

Breaches of Etiquette: Politely inform individual(s) of accepted standards. *In such cases where the activity approaches a violation of FS 877.03 (see above), you should summon the police.* Examples of breaches of etiquette:

1. Photography of non-consenting subjects. (See detailed discussion of photography issues.)
2. Loud music (upon complaint of other beach users).
3. Prolonged staring, causing the discomfort of other visitors.
4. Attempts at unwanted close physical approach, causing the discomfort of other visitors.
5. The use of demeaning or insulting language toward other visitors.

Class 3:

Misdemeanor Violations with no apparent threat of physical violence or destruction of property:

Politely inform individual(s) they are violating the law.

1. Breach of County ordinances, including:
 - a. Loitering in posted no loitering areas.
 - b. Intrusion into environmentally protected areas.
 - c. Littering
 - d. Bringing glass bottles onto the beach.

2. Breach of State statute, including:
 - a. Lewd or lascivious behavior (consensual public sexual activity). These activities are sometimes attempted in ignorance of accepted norms at a naturist beach. However, if there is no response from the perpetrator, proceed as with Class 4 below:

Class 4:

Felony Violations and/or crimes of violence or destruction of property:

Summon police immediately; note description of perpetrator(s); do not intervene unless there is a threat to another person's safety, and then only with due prudence for your own safety. Examples:

1. Illegal drug use.
2. Physical violence.
3. Theft.
4. Vandalism.
5. Sexual violence.

Any sexual approaches or assaults aimed at a minor must be dealt with promptly and decisively. This is emphatically not a situation where any attempt should be made merely at dissuasion. A Beach Ambassador should call the police immediately, and act to protect the child from harm. Further, Beach Ambassadors and the mentoring Naturist organization should make a firm commitment to do their utmost to insure the prosecution of any individual who would do harm to children, including being prepared to swear out a complaint and testify in court at any criminal proceedings. We want all such deviant individuals off our beach, off our streets, and out of society at large.

Photography at clothing-optional beaches is a troublesome issue. Naturist etiquette, and indeed common courtesy, dictates that the photographer should first obtain the permission of his subjects. We have no issue with non-pornographic and legally permissible photography at the beach, where the consent of the subjects has first been obtained. Unfortunately, obtaining a subject's permission is not a legal requirement for an amateur photographer taking pictures in a public place. So we in fact have no legal basis to have such a person removed from the beach. Often, a spontaneous mass vocal reaction from beach users will drive a photographer from the beach. Otherwise, a Beach Ambassador can only use persuasion, by presenting this as an issue of common courtesy and fairness, and by trying to evoke empathy in the photographer for the subject's desire for privacy and anonymity. It will probably also be necessary to explain the legal situation to offended beach users, who may want to know why we are not more aggressive in our actions.

Professional photographers must obtain a release from their subjects, if they plan to use photographs for advertising or for other commercial purposes.

Professional photographers who bring their own models, and use beach “extras” only with their permission, generally pose no problems. This is still not always an easy issue to deal with, however. The rule is, that if someone is recognizable in the photograph, the photographer must obtain a release from the subject. So if someone’s back appears in a picture, or if they are at such a distance as to be unrecognizable, their consent is not required. However, note that the issue of whether someone can be “recognized” can’t really be fully determined until after the picture has been printed, so the only real legal recourse for the subject may be to sue the photographer after the photograph has been published. Professionals may also be required to have a permit to take commercial photographs in certain public areas, but this depends on local regulations; Beach Ambassadors should make an effort to find out what requirements, if any, are in force at their beach.

Of course, all this applies to tasteful and non-sexual photography; if the nature of the photography is explicitly sexual and pornographic, a Beach Ambassador should not hesitate to summon the authorities.

News media photographers are allowed to take photographs of recognizable subjects in public places without their consent, if there is an issue or event of public interest; here the rights of freedom of the press and of the public to be informed have generally been held to override any privacy rights of the subjects, and in practice a wide latitude has often been granted by the courts in determining what is of “public interest”.

If the local or national media has decided to cover a Naturist beach as a newsworthy “event”, they are within their legal rights to do so. The Naturist group mentoring the beach should do their best in such cases to cooperate with the media to insure a fair, truthful, and reasonable presentation. Because of the still prevalent misperceptions about naturism, some beach users may fear that they might suffer negative repercussions from their employers or their communities if they are photographed at a Naturist beach. This should be brought to the attention of the photographers, so they may give an opportunity to such individuals to remove themselves from the area being photographed. Otherwise, we should welcome and actively seek unbiased and sympathetic coverage that presents true Naturist values in an honest and non-sensational fashion.

Conclusion

Clothing-optional beaches, properly demarcated and signed, patrolled by lifeguards and police, and overseen and mentored by a dedicated Naturist group, can be an asset to the community, in affording a recreational option for local residents, and an invaluable attraction that can generate substantial revenues for local businesses that cater to visitors and tourists. The tenth anniversary of Haulover's clothing-optional beach provides a clear and undeniable demonstration that a Naturist beach can peacefully exist and prosper even in an urban setting. We hope our honesty in discussing potential abuse is seen in the light of our genuine success to date, our dedication to maintaining the principles and ethics of naturism, and our continuing commitment to providing a safe environment for all beach users. Abuse may be statistically rare, but we are committed to insuring that those incidents that do occur are dealt with decisively.

Our goal as Beach Ambassadors should be to create a shared sense of community, and a feeling of safety and security for all beach visitors, be they confirmed Naturists, occasional skinny-dippers, or even the merely curious, as long as they display respect, tolerance, and good behavior, while we act as a first line of defense to protect innocent beach visitors from occasional troublemakers. As Naturists, we know that our chosen lifestyle is truly positive, tolerant of differences, and a genuine enhancement to our lives. If our Beach Ambassadors can convey this message to the public at large, and contribute toward presenting a positive image of the Naturist beach, we have already won far more than half the battle toward gaining a wider acceptance of naturism as the pure, wholesome, and indeed completely natural lifestyle that we know it is.

Addendum: Beach Ambassadors At Textile Beaches

Inappropriate, dangerous or unlawful behavior, and a frequent lack of concern for the environment, are by no means problems unique to clothing-optional beaches. B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation Institute welcomes inquiries from local officials, park managers and concerned textile (non-Naturist) beach user groups who are interested in developing a Beach Ambassador Program at any public beach, whether Naturist or textile. BFI further encourages its chapters and other Naturist groups to consider the expansion of their own beach protection programs beyond the limits of clothing-optional beach areas, either on their own, or in cooperation with concerned textile beach users, local environmental organizations, chambers of commerce, or existing neighborhood citizens' patrols. It is our belief that all beaches would benefit from the active participation of concerned citizens who wish to ensure their safety and environmental quality.

Polling Data on Nude Recreation

A Roper Poll commissioned by the Naturist Education Foundation polled 1,010 adults on September 2000. The Roper-Starch organization placed the risk error for this poll at 5%. Complete poll data is available from the Naturist Education Foundation, PO Box 132, Oshkosh, WI 54903.

The 2000 Roper Poll data is compared below with data from a Gallop poll using identically worded questions commissioned by The Naturist Society in 1983. This shows a significant and striking increase in the public acceptance of and participation in nude recreation over the period in question.

Question #1: Do you believe that people who enjoy nude sunbathing should be able to do so without interference from officials as long as they do so at a beach that is accepted for that purpose?

	<u>1983 Gallop Poll</u>	<u>2000 Roper Poll</u>
YES	72%	80%
NO	24%	17%

APPROVAL: Four out of five Americans believe people should be permitted to practice nude sunbathing without interference at accepted sites.

Question #2: Local and state governments now set aside public land for special types of recreation such as snow-mobiling, surfing and hunting. Do you think special and secluded areas should be set aside for people who enjoy nude sunbathing?

	<u>1983 Gallop Poll</u>	<u>2000 Roper Poll</u>
YES	39%	48%
NO	54%	48%

SITE SANCTIONING: Half of Americans think that government should set aside land for nude sunbathing, just as they do for other special uses.

Question #3: Have you, personally, ever gone “skinny-dipping” or nude sunbathing in a mixed group of men and women at a beach, at a pool, or somewhere else?

	<u>1983 Gallop Poll</u>	<u>2000 Roper Poll</u>
YES	15%	25%
NO	83%	73%

PARTICIPATION: A quarter of Americans have participated in mixed-gender nude sunbathing or skinny-dipping - as many as 51 million, based on current U.S. census data.

National & International Naturist Organizations

International Naturist Federation (INF) www.inffni.org
General Secretariat, St. Hubertusstraat 5, B-2600, Antwerp, Belgium
The INF represents 33 million Naturists worldwide, with participating national affiliates in 40 countries.

The Naturist Society (TNS) www.naturistsociety.com
PO Box 132, Oshkosh, WI 54903

American Association for Nude Recreation (AANR) www.aanr.com
1703 North Main Street, Kissimmee, FL 34744

Beach Education Advocates for Culture, Health, Environment & Safety
Foundation Institute (B.E.A.C.H.E.S.) www.beachesfoundation.org
PO Box 530702, Miami Shores, FL 33153.

Federation of Canadian Naturists (FCN) www.fcn.ca
PO Box 186, station D, Etobicoke, ON M9A 4X2, Canada

Names of local Naturist organizations affiliated with the organizations listed above may be obtained on their respective web sites.

Useful Publications

A variety of books, pamphlets, magazines, newsletters and videos are available from the Naturist organizations listed above; please consult their web sites. In addition, the following independent publications are highly recommended:

Naturists: Upholders of Strong Family Values by Paul LeValley. Published by Tallahassee Bare Devils, PO Box 6866, Tallahassee, FL 32314. *A concise booklet addressing American opinion, tradition, Naturist values, religion, the law, economics and beach management solutions. Complete with research footnotes. May be purchased from The Naturist Society.*

Nakedness and the Bible by Paul M. Bowman, PO Box 1978, Ferndale, WA 98248. *An examination by chapter and verse of what the Bible really says about nakedness, written by a Christian Naturist. Provides an exhaustive discussion of references to nudity in the Bible. 40 pages. A condensed version What the Holy Bible Really Says About Nakedness (18 pages) is available and represents Mr. Bowman's speech at the 1998 CLE National Legal Symposium on non-sexual nudity at Florida International University sponsored by South Florida Free Beaches and the Naturist Education Foundation.*

BEACH AMBASSADOR DECLARATION

South Florida Free Beaches / Florida Naturist Association

Haulover Beach Ambassadors

Haulover Beach Ambassadors may only be appointed by vote of the Board of Directors of South Florida Free Beaches/Florida Naturist Association. The Board may also, at its sole discretion by majority vote, withdraw the Beach Ambassador status of any individual. Beach Ambassador safari hats and all other paraphernalia provided by SFFB/FNA to Beach Ambassadors remain the property of SFFB/FNA, and SFFB/FNA may request the return of such items upon its revocation of an individual's Beach Ambassador status.

I, the undersigned, solemnly swear, or affirm, that I will perform the duties of Beach Ambassador in accordance with the guidelines set forth in this manual, uphold the accepted standards of Naturist behavior and etiquette, and obey all laws and regulations in force at the beach with whose care and mentorship I am entrusted.

Signature _____

Name _____

Date _____ / _____ / _____