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**Contact:** Sara J. Hallas  
**Phone:** 252.476.1607  
**Email:** [sarajh@nccoast.org](mailto:sarajh@nccoast.org)

## **Volunteers Can Help Restore Jockey's Ridge Shoreline**

NAGS HEAD - Volunteers are needed to help bag recycled oyster shells that will be used in an ongoing shoreline restoration project at Jockey's Ridge State Park. Bagging events will take place Monday, Feb. 21, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, March 5, from 10 a.m. to noon in the Jockey's Ridge visitor's center parking lot.

"It's a fun way to get outside and help the park, while improving the habitat in coastal waters," said Sara Hallas, environmental education specialist for the N.C. Coastal Federation.

The park is working with the federation to restore its eroding estuarine shoreline. The restoration project includes building an offshore sill using empty oyster shells that have been put into net bags. The sill will protect the shoreline from waves. This spring, marsh grasses will be planted behind the sill to help hold sediment in place. This natural form of shoreline stabilization enhances shallow water fisheries habitat.

This is the second phase of the project. A grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership is funding the work.

Volunteers should dress for the weather and wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes. To volunteer or for more information contact the federation's Sara Jean Hallas at 252-473-1607 or at [sarajh@nccoast.org](mailto:sarajh@nccoast.org).

**Suggested photo caption: Volunteer Tony DiBernardo works to fill mesh bags with recycled oyster shell . The bags will be used to restore eroded shoreline at Jockey's Ridge State Park.**