



## **NOMINATION APPLICATION FORM**

### **Section 1: Applicant Details:**

**Name:** Nicholas Blume  
**Date:** 25/11/2024 22:34:36  
**Email address:** nblume3393@gmail.com  
**Nominated position:** Treasurer (1 x Position)  
**Professional affiliations:** Fractional CFO for Startups  
**Country of residence:** USA  
**Geographic area of work:** Florida

### **Section 2: Applicant Response:**

**How would you describe your work with sea turtles?**

I presented a research project at the 2014 New Orleans Symposium entitled Operating a Fully-functional Sea Turtle Lab with Public Outreach: What Are The Costs? I have been the Registrar for 2 Symposiums and the Treasurer for 4 Symposiums.

**How many years have you worked with sea turtles?**

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**Which Annual Sea Turtle Symposia, or Annual Workshops have you attended?**

2014 New Orleans, 2016 Las Vegas, 2019 Charleston, 2022 Perth, 2023 Cartagena, 2024 Thailand

**Have you been involved with any Symposium activities?**

I presented a research project at the 2014 New Orleans Symposium entitled Operating a Fully-functional Sea Turtle Lab with Public Outreach: What Are The Costs? I have been the Registrar for 2 Symposiums and the Treasurer for 4 Symposiums.

**What would you like the Nominating Committee, Board of Directors, and membership to know about you as a candidate for your nominated position? In what ways would you like to contribute to the Symposium/ International Sea Turtle Society?**

I am writing to express my interest in being re-nominated as Volunteer Treasurer for ISTS. Over the past four years in this role, we've achieved several milestones, including establishing investment accounts that have generated additional revenue and developing financial projections to support strategic planning. I also contributed to implementing the community and innovation grants, expanding our reach.

In my current role as Director of Finance for a U.S.-based software startup, and with experience as a former CFO and Budget Analyst managing budgets up to \$19M, I've developed a strong foundation in data analysis and cost-effective solutions.

If re-elected, I aim to continue enhancing our fiscal strategy by (1) boosting marketing for our symposium, (2) expanding the Society's revenue, and (3) expanding public outreach

**How do you envision using the Symposium to advance sea turtle biology and promote conservation?**

The ISTS Symposium has been a cornerstone of inspiration for me since my first experience in New Orleans in 2014, where I was struck by its strong sense of community. As Volunteer Treasurer, I've had the opportunity to blend my passions for biology and business to support conservation efforts globally, helping ISTS enhance resource management for researchers and educators. Looking forward, I hope to use the Symposium as a platform to reimagine funding strategies, broaden accessibility, and enrich the experience for students and faculty, ensuring we inspire the next generation of conservationists and foster an enduring commitment to sea turtle biology and conservation.

**Why is the ISTS as an organization important to you, professionally and personally? What is your vision for the ISTS over the next 5 to 10 years?**

My first ISTS Symposium in New Orleans in 2014 was incredibly inspiring—I was moved by the strong sense of community and inclusiveness fostered by everyone involved. As a biologist at heart with a deep personal connection to sea turtles, I've dedicated my time and skills to supporting ISTS, even as my professional path has taken me outside of biology.

For the past few years, I've served as Volunteer Treasurer, which has allowed me to bring together my passions for business and biology while supporting global conservation efforts. ISTS has given me a platform to help conservationists, researchers, and educators manage resources more effectively, enabling them to share knowledge in impactful ways.

Looking ahead, I hope ISTS continues to re-evaluate its funding allocation, explores cost-effective ways to expand attendance, and strengthens its appeal to millennials and future generations. I'm especially passionate about enhancing the student and faculty experience at each Symposium to inspire future conservationists

**Please include a 250-word bio**

Nick Blume grew up in the southeastern U.S. and graduated with honors from Florida Atlantic University (FAU) with a Bachelor of Business Administration, later earning an MBA in Business Intelligence and Analytics from Nova Southeastern University. At FAU, he balanced work and volunteer roles in sea turtle conservation, assisting with turtle studies and supporting students in preparing presentations for ISTS. Leveraging his analytical skills, he contributed to research on Loggerhead and Leatherback turtles' visual fields and presented a business model for a conservation-focused sea turtle facility at ISTS34, blending his passions for conservation, biology, and business.

Now serving as CFO for startups and currently Director of Finance for a software company focused on digitizing law firm workflows, Nick brings a diverse background—from managing FAU's \$12M Activity Fee budget to DNA lab internships, and volunteering in sea turtle research. This experience has equipped him to serve as Volunteer Treasurer for ISTS, where he applies his financial expertise to support ISTS's mission in marine turtle conservation worldwide.

Photo:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1So1rpXZzhIjZCRsLNHI3UIfljGirz2AZ>

## Section 3: Declaration

Circle your response to the below statements:

I am a current member of ISTS Yes

I have read and understand the ISTS by-laws and constitution Yes

I have read and understand the terms of reference for the position which I am nominating for: Yes

For Board of Directors nominees, I understand that the Annual Board Retreat is usually in the 3rd week of August: Yes

For Board of Directors nominees: Please read the following statement and add your initials below to confirm you understand the workload involved:

***The Board is a working Board. All members of the Board are expected to carry the workload, share the responsibility of assigned tasks, and respond to written communications – this can typically be 40+ hours per year in addition to the Board meeting at the Symposium and the Board Retreat. If a Board member does not maintain their ISTS membership and demonstrate a high level of commitment to the ISTS as described in the Board members' TORs, they will be asked to resign from the Board. High level of commitment is defined as a Board member physically attending a minimum of three mid year retreats during their 4-year Board term, attending online Board meetings consistently, serving annually on multiple Committees, completing assigned tasks, and being responsive to online communications and requests.***

***The 2025 Board retreat is 10th to 15th August 2025 in Washington DC.***

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