Work Requirements to Camp With the Future Turtles

Camping for a week in the harsh Black Rock Desert is tough. We try to make it easier by collaborating to build a beautiful camp, organizing delicious shared meals together, and providing communal gifts to the Burning Man community.

The magic of Burning Man is the collaboration. Not only will you be collaborating to build something really awesome that you can be proud of, but you will test your own limits, learn many new skills, and make incredible friends for life. Burning Man is a transformative experience and the people you go through it with make all the difference.

This all takes a ton of work, both in the months leading up to the event getting everything ready, and during the week of Burning Man itself. To camp with us, you can expect to put in several days of work before you even get to the event, and several hours of shifts every day once we're there.

Off-Playa Contribution

Each turtle is required to contributed meaningfully to the preparation for Burning Man in one of the following ways:

1. Participate in a work weekend in Reno, NV in the spring to help prepare our gear
2. Join the early build team, arriving on playa a week before everyone else to build the camp
3. Join the post-strike team, staying behind on playa a day and helping put away gear in Reno after the event
4. As a part of the food and beverages team, prepare food and the food truck in Reno before the burn
5. Meaningfully contribute to a camp art project and/or bring your own form of art

On Playa Work Teams

Every turtle will also be a part of a work team on playa. The teams may change a bit from year to year, but in 2024 we had the following work teams:

1. Food (preparing two hot meals a day)
2. Dining Room (serving meals and cleaning the dining room afterwards; maintaining snack stations)

3. Drinks (including drinks served at parties, water and electrolyte drinks available to campers, and ice)
4. LNT (cleaning the public areas of the camp)
5. Gayflower (cleaning the private shower area)
6. Infrastructure (maintaining the generator and water infrastructure)

These teams organize their own shifts throughout the event week, with a goal that each turtle contribute approximately 12 hours of work during the week as a part of their particular team.

Other Teams

We have a variety of teams, large and small, that take care of some of the other things that keep our camp working. These teams often meet in advance of Burning Man to prepare and their work during the event may vary depending on the team. This work is all in addition to the work shifts mentioned above, and almost every turtle contributes to at least one of these teams. Your contribution may be to one of these existing projects, or you might have an idea to start your own project!

Team	Typical pre-playa work	Typical on-playa work	Typical post-playa work
Parties	Choose themes for parties, prepare decor and accessories, line up DJs and entertainment, produce publicity and submit events to Playa Events, coordinate with drinks team	Run the parties, make sure there are volunteers to staff parties as greeters, monitors, consent monitors, bike parking, lighting directors, DJs, and bartenders	
Guardians	Plan for orientation activities, schedule training for new turtles and pre-playa meeting sessions	Deal with personal, emotional, health issues, and conflict that may come up; coach campers whose behavior puts them at risk of not getting invited back	Produce programming for re-integration and "decompression" from playa; make sure unresolved issues during the week are addressed
Bikes	Inventory bikes and order new parts	Check bikes out and in	
Turtle Truck	Reserve a rental truck and pick it up; coordinate load-in and drive to playa		Coordinate load-in, drive from playa, take camp trash to the dump, wash truck and return it
Turtle Bus	Coordinate the charter bus and make sure the right people are on it and it goes to the right places; communicate with riders		Coordinate the charter bus and make sure the right people are on it and it goes to the right places; communicate with riders
Camp Decor and Design	Plan camp layout and decor	Set up decor and lights	

Art Projects	Build art for the playa Work on an art car	Set up art, maintain art lighting, maintain art car, etc.	Take down art
Pillow Fort	Plan pillow fort layout and decor	Coordinate on-playa pillow fort activities	
Workshops and Events	Prepare some kind of on-playa workshop or event	Example events: Tarot Reading, Turkish Coffee Fortunetelling, HIIT training, Yoga, workshops and small classes, etc.	

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