

**Application for  
Best Event Photograph**

**Cold Stunned Plunge  
Jekyll Island Authority**

**Judges' score - 7.6**

### Detailed description of the event image

This photo showcases an aerial view of the 310 participants before taking the cold stunned plunge in November 2022. The dunes, boardwalk and the Atlantic Ocean along with the participants can be seen in this photo. If you look close enough, you can spot Santa! Participants of the plunge gather on Jekyll Island's beach for a quick dip in the chilly Atlantic. An airhorn start signals when it's time to take the plunge. Participants run to the water, some for a quick dip, others go out a little further. All participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothes, bring a towel, and any dry clothing they want to change into after the plunge. The Cold Stunned Plunge benefitting the Georgia Sea Turtle Center is a fun event for participants of all ages and abilities. It's a great activity for families spending the Thanksgiving holiday weekend together and looking for something meaningful to do. Unlike traditional 'polar plunge' events, the Cold Stunned Plunge gives participants the opportunity to feel a greater connection to the work and mission of the Georgia Sea Turtle Center and to the purpose of protecting sea turtles in our oceans and along our coast. Many sea turtles get caught in hypothermic water temperatures during winter, and the funds raised will assist with their cold stun rehabilitation and recovery.

### Brief description of the event the photo is capturing or the back story.

It's all about the thrill of the chill! The Cold Stunned Plunge benefitting the Georgia Sea Turtle Center is a fun event for participants of all ages and abilities. Participants of the plunge gather on Jekyll Island's beach for a quick dip in the chilly Atlantic. An airhorn start signals when it's time to take the plunge. Participants run to the water, some for a quick dip, others go out a little further. All participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothes, bring a towel, and any dry clothing they want to change into after the plunge. Unlike traditional 'polar plunge' events, the Cold Stunned Plunge gives participants the opportunity to feel a greater connection to the work and mission of the Georgia Sea Turtle Center and to the purpose of protecting sea turtles in our oceans and along our coast. Many sea turtles get caught in hypothermic water temperatures during winter, and the funds raised will assist with their cold stun/hypothermic rehabilitation and recovery. The inaugural event in 2021 welcomed more than 250 participants to take the plunge and was a welcome start to the holiday season on Jekyll Island. The following week, the Center welcomed several cold-stunned patients for rehabilitation. Santa himself also registered for the plunge, and participants were encouraged to bring their cameras for a photo op with the big man and his close friend, Scute C. Turtle, the official mascot of the Georgia Sea Turtle Center. It's a great activity for families spending the Thanksgiving holiday weekend together and looking for something meaningful to do.

### Does this photo capture your event?

This photo captures the impact of this event by showing the number of participants committed to making a difference for sea turtle conservation on the Georgia Coast, and what lengths they are willing to make that difference.

