Strategies for Stewardship: Coral Restoration Foundation’s Approach to Regional Reef Management via Volunteerism & Community-based Stewardship Programs

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Appreciation + Awareness = Action

**Introduction:**
Coral Restoration Foundation (CRF) has developed and sustained a successful offshore coral nursery and restoration program by merging SCUBA diving, education, and volunteerism into supervised, community-based stewardship programs strategically designed to manage and restore endangered corals to reefs. We seek to develop a sense of community stewardship for the coral restoration process through hands-on learning as citizen scientists in action-orientated programs.

**What is Stewardship?**
Long-term collaborative initiatives between organizations, communities, and businesses for the purpose of sustainable management of ecological resources

**What is Volunteerism?**
The merging of tourism and volunteering into one for the purpose of supporting and conducting responsible community service

**Program Strategies for Stewardship:**
- Support Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Management Objectives
- Facilitate the relationship between society and marine environment
- Educate participants on the local-to-global importance of coral reefs
- Empower teamwork, communication, and leadership via field work
- Magnify on-the-ground restoration efforts through community action
- Develop and refine techniques for nursery maintenance and restoration
- Support local businesses and organizations through long-term partnerships
- Integrate responsible, productive activities into local tourism industry

**Restoration Locations**
- Florida
  - Dry Rocks
  - Elkhorn Nursery
  - Key West Nursery
  - Molasses Reef
  - Pickles Reef
- Guadeloupe
- Staghorn Nursery
- CRF
- White Bank
- French Reef
- Snapper Ledge
- Cannon Reef
- Davis Reef
- Atlantic Ocean

**Accomplishments**
- Nearly 500+ corals planted
- 20 different restoration sites
- Engaged nearly 700 volunteers directly
- Partnered with dozens of organizations and businesses for long-term restoration support

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www.coralrestoration.org